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

FORM D
 NOTICE OF SALE OF SECURITIES
 PURSUANT TO REGULATION D,
 SECTION 4(6), AND/OR
 UNIFORM LIMITED OFFERING EXEMPTION

RECEIVED
 JUL 11 2002
 SECTION 154
 WASH., D.C.

02046048

OMB Number: 3235-0076
 Expires: May 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden
 hours per response.....1

SEC USE ONLY	
Prefix	Serial
DATE RECEIVED	

Name of Offering (check if this is an amendment and name has changed, and indicate change.)
Offering of limited partnership interests in SSM Venture Partners III, L.P.

Filing Under (Check box(es) that apply): Rule 504 Rule 505 Rule 506 Section 4(6) ULOE
 Type of Filing: New Filing Amendment

1. Enter the information requested about the issuer

Name of Issuer (check if this is an amendment and name has changed, and indicate change.)
SSM Venture Partners III, L.P.

Address of Executive Offices (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code) 845 Crossover Lane, Suite 140, Memphis, TN 38117	Telephone Number (Including Area Code) (901) 767-1131
Address of Principal Business Operations (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)	Telephone Number (Including Area Code)

PROCESSED

JUL 24 2002

Brief Description of Business
The partnership was formed to engage in private investments of equity capital.

**THOMSON
FINANCIAL**

Type of Business Organization
 corporation limited partnership, already formed other (please specify):
 business trust limited partnership, to be formed

Actual or Estimated Date of Incorporation or Organization: Month Year
 April 2001 Actual Estimated
 Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization: (Enter two-letter U.S. Postal Service abbreviation for State:
 CN for Canada; FN for other foreign jurisdiction) TN

General Instructions

Federal:

Who Must File: All issuers making an offering of securities in reliance on an exemption under Regulation D or Section 4(6), 17 CFR 230.501 et seq. or 15 U.S.C. 77d(6).

When to File: A notice must be filed no later than 15 days after the first sale of securities in the offering. A notice is deemed filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on the earlier of the date it is received by the SEC at the address given below or, if received at that address after the date on which it is due, on the date it was mailed by United States registered or certified mail to that address.

Where to File: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549

Copies Required: Five (5) copies of this notice must be filed with the SEC, one of which must be manually signed. Any copies not manually signed must be photocopies of the manually signed copy or bear typed or printed signatures.

Information Required: A new filing must contain all information requested. Amendments need only to report the name of the issuer and offering, any changes thereto, the information requested in Part C, and any material changes from the information previously supplied in Parts A and B. Part E and the Appendix need not be filed with the SEC.

Filing Fee: There is no federal filing fee.

State:

This notice shall be used to indicate reliance on the Uniform Limited Offering Exemption (ULOE) for sales of securities in those states that have adopted ULOE and that have adopted this form. Issuers relying on ULOE must file a separate notice with the Securities Administrator in each state where sales are to be, or have been made. If a state requires the payment of a fee as a precondition to the claim for the exemption, a fee in the proper amount shall accompany this form. This notice shall be filed in the appropriate states in accordance with state law. The Appendix to the notice constitutes a part of this notice and must be completed.

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ATTENTION

Failure to file notice in the appropriate states will not result in a loss of the federal exemption. Conversely, failure to file the appropriate federal notice will not result in a loss of an available state exemption unless such exemption is predicated on the filing of a federal notice.

A. BASIC IDENTIFICATION DATA

2. Enter the information requested for the following:

- ! Each promoter of the issuer, if the issuer has been organized within the past five years;
- ! Each beneficial owner having the power to vote or dispose, or direct the vote or disposition of, 10% or more of a class of equity securities of the issuer;
- ! Each executive officer and director of corporate issuers and of corporate general and managing partners of partnership issues; and
- ! Each general and managing partner of partnership issuers.

Check all box(es) that apply: Promoter Beneficial Owner Executive Officer Director General and/or Managing Partner

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)
SSM III, L.P.

Business or Residence Address (number and Street, City, State, Zip code)
845 Crossover Lane, Suite 140, Memphis, TN 38117

Check all box(es) that apply: Promoter Beneficial Owner Executive Officer Director General and/or Managing Partner

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Business or Residence Address (number and Street, City, State, Zip code)

Check all box(es) that apply: Promoter Beneficial Owner Executive Officer Director General and/or Managing Partner

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Business or Residence Address (number and Street, City, State, Zip code)

Check all box(es) that apply: Promoter Beneficial Owner Executive Officer Director General and/or Managing Partner

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Business or Residence Address (number and Street, City, State, Zip code)

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Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

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Business or Residence Address (number and Street, City, State, Zip code)

Check all box(es) that apply: Promoter Beneficial Owner Executive Officer Director General and/or Managing Partner

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Business or Residence Address (number and Street, City, State, Zip code)

(Use blank sheet, or copy and use additional copies of this sheet, as necessary)

B. INFORMATION ABOUT OFFERING

1. Has the issuer sold, does the issuer intend to sell, to non-accredited investors in this offering? Yes No

Answer also in Appendix, Column 2, if filing under ULOE.
2. What is the minimum investment that will be accepted from any individual? \$ 500,000, subject to the discretion of the General Partner. Yes No
3. Does the offering permit joint ownership of a single unit? Yes No
4. Enter the information requested for each person who has been or will be paid or given, directly or indirectly, any commission or similar remuneration for solicitation of purchasers in connection with sales of securities in the offering. If a person to be listed is an associated person or agent of a broker or dealer registered with the SEC and/or with a state or states, list the name of the broker or dealer. If more than five (5) persons to be listed are associated persons of such a broker or dealer, you may set forth the information for that broker or dealer only.

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)

Name of associated Broker or Dealer

States in Which Person Listed Has solicited or Intends to Solicit Purchasers

(Check "All States" or check individual States) All States

[AL]	[AK]	[AZ]	[AR]	[CA]	[CO]	[CT]	[DE]	[DC]	[FL]	[GA]	[HI]	[ID]
[IL]	[IN]	[IA]	[KS]	[KY]	[LA]	[ME]	[MD]	[MA]	[MI]	[MN]	[MS]	[MO]
[MT]	[NE]	[NV]	[NH]	[NJ]	[NM]	[NY]	[NC]	[ND]	[OH]	[OK]	[OR]	[PA]
[RI]	[SC]	[SD]	[TN]	[TX]	[UT]	[VT]	[VA]	[WA]	[WV]	[WI]	[WY]	[PR]

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)

States in Which Person Listed Has solicited or Intends to Solicit Purchasers

(Check "All States" or check individual States) All States

[AL]	[AK]	[AZ]	[AR]	[CA]	[CO]	[CT]	[DE]	[DC]	[FL]	[GA]	[HI]	[ID]
[IL]	[IN]	[IA]	[KS]	[KY]	[LA]	[ME]	[MD]	[MA]	[MI]	[MN]	[MS]	[MO]
[MT]	[NE]	[NV]	[NH]	[NJ]	[NM]	[NY]	[NC]	[ND]	[OH]	[OK]	[OR]	[PA]
[RI]	[SC]	[SD]	[TN]	[TX]	[UT]	[VT]	[VA]	[WA]	[WV]	[WI]	[WY]	[PR]

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)

States in Which Person Listed Has solicited or Intends to Solicit Purchasers

(Check "All States" or check individual States) All States

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[IL]	[IN]	[IA]	[KS]	[KY]	[LA]	[ME]	[MD]	[MA]	[MI]	[MN]	[MS]	[MO]
[MT]	[NE]	[NV]	[NH]	[NJ]	[NM]	[NY]	[NC]	[ND]	[OH]	[OK]	[OR]	[PA]
[RI]	[SC]	[SD]	[TN]	[TX]	[UT]	[VT]	[VA]	[WA]	[WV]	[WI]	[WY]	[PR]

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)

Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)

States in Which Person Listed Has solicited or Intends to Solicit Purchasers

(Check "All States" or check individual States) All States

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[IL]	[IN]	[IA]	[KS]	[KY]	[LA]	[ME]	[MD]	[MA]	[MI]	[MN]	[MS]	[MO]
[MT]	[NE]	[NV]	[NH]	[NJ]	[NM]	[NY]	[NC]	[ND]	[OH]	[OK]	[OR]	[PA]
[RI]	[SC]	[SD]	[TN]	[TX]	[UT]	[VT]	[VA]	[WA]	[WV]	[WI]	[WY]	[PR]

(Use blank sheet, or copy and use additional copies of this sheet, as necessary)

C. OFFERING PRICE, NUMBER OF INVESTORS, EXPENSES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

1. Enter the aggregate offering price of securities included in this offering and the total amount already sold. Enter "0" if answer is "none" or "zero." If the transaction is an exchange offering, check this box and indicate in the columns below the amount of the securities offered for exchange and already exchanged.

Type of Security	Aggregate Offering Price	Amount Already Sold
Debt	\$ _____	\$ _____
Equity	\$ _____	\$ _____
	Common Preferred	
Convertible Securities (including warrants)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Partnership Interests	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 37,800,000
Other (Specify _____)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

Answer also in Appendix, column 3, if filing under ULOE.

2. Enter the number of accredited and non-accredited investors who have purchased securities in this offering and the aggregate dollar amounts of their purchases. For offerings under Rule 504, indicate the number of persons who have purchased securities and the aggregate dollar amount of their purchases on the total lines. Enter "0" if answer is "none" or "zero."

Type of Security	Number of Investors	Aggregate Dollar Amount of Purchases
Accredited Investors	\$ 27	\$ 37,800,000
Non-Accredited Investors	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total (for filings under Rule 504 only)	\$ _____	\$ _____

Answer also in Appendix, Column 4, if filing under ULOE.

3. If this filing is for an offering under Rule 504 or 505, enter the information requested for all securities sold by the issuer, to date, in offerings of the types indicated, in the twelve (12) months prior to the first sale of securities in this offering. Classify securities by type listed in Part C - Question 1.

Type of Offering	Type of Security	Dollar Amount Sold
Rule 505	\$ _____	\$ _____
Regulation A	\$ _____	\$ _____
Rule 504	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

4. a. Furnish a statement of all expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities in this offering. Exclude amounts relating solely to organization expenses of this issuer. The information may be given as subject to future contingencies. If the amount of an expenditure is not known, furnish an estimate and check the box to the left of the estimate.

Transfer Agent's fees	\$ _____
Printing and Engraving Costs	X\$ 4,000
Legal Fees	X\$ 65,000
Accounting Fees	X\$ 2,000
Engineering Fees	\$ _____
Sales Commissions (specify finders' fees separately)	\$ _____
Other Expenses	X\$ 4,000
Total	X\$ 75,000

C. OFFERING PRICE, NUMBER OF INVESTORS, EXPENSES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

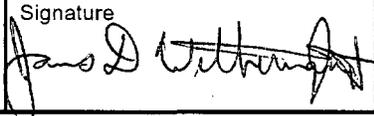
b. Enter the difference between the aggregate offering price given in response to Part C - Question 1 and total expenses furnished in response to Part C - Question 4.a. This difference is the "adjusted gross proceeds to the issuer." \$149,925,000

5. Indicate below the amount of the adjusted gross proceeds to the issuer used or proposed to be used for each of the purposes shown. If the amount for any purpose is not known, furnish an estimate and check the box to the left of the estimate. The total of the payment listed must equal the adjusted gross proceeds to the issuers set forth in response to Part C - Question 4.b. above.

	Payments to Officers, Directors & Affiliates	Payments to Others
Salaries and fees	\$ _____	\$ _____
Purchase of real estate	\$ _____	\$ _____
Purchase, rental or leasing and installation of machinery and equipment	\$ _____	\$ _____
Construction or leasing of plant buildings and facilities	\$ _____	\$ _____
Acquisition of other business (including the value of securities involved in this offering that may be used in exchange for the assets or securities of another issuer pursuant to a merger)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Repayment of indebtedness	\$ _____	\$ _____
Working Capital	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other (venture capital equity investments and management fees)	\$ _____	X \$149,925,000
Column totals	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total payments listed (column totals added)	\$ _____	X \$149,925,000

D. FEDERAL SIGNATURE

The issuer has duly caused this notice to be signed by the undersigned duly authorized person. If this notice is filed under Rule 505, the following signature constitutes an undertaking by the issuer to furnish to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission upon written request of this staff, the information furnished by the issuer to any non-accredited investor pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of Rule 502.

Issuer (Print or Type) SSM Venture Partners III, L.P.	Signature 	Date July 2, 2002
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Name (Print or Type) SSM Venture Partners III, L.P. General Partner: SSM III, L.P. By: SSM Corporation, its General Partner By: James D. Witherington, Jr. Title: President	Title (Print or Type) President
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ATTENTION
Intentional misstatements or omissions of fact constitute federal criminal violations. (See 18 U.S.C. 1001.)

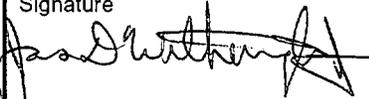
E. STATE SIGNATURE

- | | | |
|---|-----|----------|
| | Yes | No |
| 1. Is any party described in 17 CFR 230.252 (c), (d), (e) or (f) presently subject to any of the disqualification provisions of such rule | | X |

See Appendix, Column 5, for state response.

2. The undersigned issuer hereby undertakes to furnish to any state administrator of any state in which this notice is filed, a notice on Form D (17 CFR 239.500) at such times as required by state law.
3. The undersigned issuer hereby undertakes to furnish to the state administrators, upon written request, information furnished by the issuer to the offerees.
4. The undersigned issuer represents that the issuer is familiar with the conditions that must be satisfied to be entitled to the Uniform Limited Offering Exemption (ULOE) of the state in which this notice is filed and understands that the issuer claiming the availability of this exemption has the burden of establishing that these conditions have been satisfied.

The issuer has read this notification and knows the contents to be true and has duly caused this notice to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned duly authorized person.

Issuer (Print or Type) SSM Venture Partners III, L.P.	Signature 	Date July 2 2002
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Name (Print or Type) SSM Venture Partners III, L.P. General Partner: SSM III, L.P. By: SSM Corporation, its General Partner By: James D. Witherington, Jr. Title: President	Title (Print or Type) President
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Instruction:

Print the name and title of the signing representative under his signature for the state portion of this form. One copy of every notice on Form D must be manually signed. Any copies not manually signed must be photocopies of the manually signed copy or bear typed or printed signatures.

APPENDIX

1	2		3	4				5	
	Intend to Sell to non-accredited investors in State (Part B-Item 1)			Type of Security and Aggregate offering price offered in state (PartC-Item 1)	Type of Investor and amount purchased in State (Part C - Item 2)				Disqualification under State ULOE (If yes, attach explanation of waive granted) (Part E - Item 1)
State	Yes	No		No. of accredited Investors	Amount	No. of non-accredited Investors	Amount	Yes	No
AL		X	Partnership Interests \$1,000,000	1	\$1,000,000				X
AK									
AZ									
AR									
CA									
CO									
CT									
DE									
DC									
FL									
GA		X	Partnership Interests \$5,000,000	1	\$5,000,000				X
HI									
ID									
IL									
IN									
IA									
KS									
KY									
LA									
ME									
MD									
MA									
MI									
MN									
MS									
MO									

APPENDIX

1	2		3	4				5	
	Intend to Sell to non-accredited investors in State (Part B-Item 1)			Type of Security and Aggregate offering price offered in state (PartC-Item 1)	Type of Investor and amount purchased in State (Part C - Item 2)				Disqualification under State ULOE (If yes, attach explanation of waive granted) (Part E - Item 1)
State	Yes	No		No. of accredited Investors	Amount	No. of non-accredited Investors	Amount	Yes	No
MT									
NE									
NV									
NH									
NJ									
NM									
NY									
NC									
ND									
OH									
OK									
OR									
PA									
RI									
SC									
SD									
TN		X	Partnership Interests \$26,300,000	23	\$26,300,000				X
TX		X	Partnership Interests \$500,000	1	\$500,000				X
UT									
VT									
VA									
WA									
WV									
WI									
WY									
PR									

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