



Business Review for the nine months ended September 30, 2007

Nine-month sales up 6.9% like-for-like

(MARCY L'ETOILE, FRANCE – OCTOBER 26, 2007) – bioMérieux (Euronext: BIM), a global leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, today released its business review for the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

Financial review

- ◆ Sales

Net sales amounted to €778.1 million in the first nine months of 2007, an increase of 6.9% at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation (like-for-like).

En € millions	9 months 2007	9 months 2006	% Change		Q3 2007	Q3 2006	% Change	
			Reported	Like-for-like			Reported	Like-for-like
Europe⁽¹⁾	449.6	431.7	+4.1%	+5.7%	146.2	137.3	+6.5%	+5.9%
North America	192.8	199.7	-3.5%	+8.4%	64.2	66.5	-3.5%	+5.7%
Asia-Pacific	86.6	82.7	+4.7%	+12.0%	31.3	27.9	+12.1%	+16.4%
Latin America	49.1	51.3	-4.0%	+2.6%	18.3	17.3	+5.9%	+8.0%
TOTAL	778.1	765.4	+1.7%	+6.9%	260.0	249.0	+4.4%	+7.2%

(1) Including the Middle East and Africa

Reported growth of 1.7% was impacted by a negative 2.9% currency effect and by changes in the scope of consolidation (divestment of the hemostasis business, phase-out of North American microplate production and consolidation of Bacterial Barcodes, Inc. and Biomedics, acquired on September 15, 2006 and March 30, 2007 respectively).

In the third quarter alone, sales were up 7.2% like-for-like.

All of the operating regions reported like-for-like growth for the first nine months:

- Sales in the **Europe - Middle East - Africa region**, which accounted for 58% of consolidated business, increased by 5.7% over the period, with sustained strong expansion in Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain and the Middle East-Africa region. Excluding France, where sales rose by 1.7%, growth in the region stood at 7.4%.

In clinical applications, growth remained strong in bacteriology, especially in the VITEK[®]2 line, and in molecular biology, with in particular a sharp increase in sales in South Africa. Immunoassay sales were stable, reflecting lower sales of VIDAS[®] routine tests in Southern Europe and continued difficulties in the start-up of VIDIA[®] sales. In addition, competition remained aggressive in the microplate segment. Sales of industrial applications were up 8.6% for the period.

- In **North America** (25% of the consolidated total), sales rose 8.4% during the first nine months. In clinical applications, growth was particularly strong in the bacteriological lines, especially BacT/ALERT[®], while industrial application sales gained 12.4%, led by higher sales of BacT/ALERT[®] sterility control reagents, TEMPO[®] billings and sustained growth for VITEK[®]2.

- Sales rose 12% in the **Asia-Pacific** region (11% of the consolidated total), where China, South Korea and India continued to deliver strong growth. Sales in Japan benefited from instrument and reagent billings under the contract with BML.

In the clinical segment, growth was driven by the automated bacteriology lines and by the VIDAS[®] range, while industrial applications sales rose by 14.9%.

- Despite a good third quarter, nine-month sales were up only slightly in **Latin America** (6% of the consolidated total). Growth was robust in Argentina and Mexico, but the situation remained challenging in Brazil, particularly in molecular biology and microplates in the clinical segment. In a smaller market, industrial applications reported strong growth across the region.

In all, **clinical applications** gained 6.2% like-for-like during the first nine months of the year, while **industrial applications** rose 11%.

In € millions	9 months 2007	9 months 2006	% change		Q3 2007	Q3 2006	% change	
			Reported	Like-for-like			Reported	Like-for-like
Clinical Applications	666.5	662.1	+0.7%	+6.2%	221.9	214.1	+3.7%	+6.6%
Industrial Applications	111.6	103.3	+8.1%	+11.0%	38.1	34.9	+8.9%	+11.1%
TOTAL	778.1	765.4	+1.7%	+6.9%	260.0	249.0	+4.4%	+7.2%

- In **clinical applications**, bacteriology sales rose 8.5% led by the VITEK[®] line, which benefited from the NHS contract in Scotland and the BML contract in Japan, by the BacT/ALERT[®] line and by culture media. Immunoassay sales were unchanged, due to an erosion in sales of VIDAS[®] routine tests in Southern Europe, the difficult uptake for VIDIA[®] and intense competition in the microplate market. The new VIDAS[®] B·R·A·H·M·S PCT test, used for the early detection of severe bacterial infections, has been very favorably received. Molecular biology sales enjoyed sustained growth.

- Growth in **industrial application** sales remained strong, led by the bacteriology lines, especially the VITEK[®]2 and TEMPO[®] systems.
 - ◆ Other quarterly financial highlights
- Business demand was strong during the period and expenses were in line with expectations.
- After the acquisition of Biomedics and BTF, the investments in LabTech and AdvanDx and the payment of €30 million in dividends, net debt stood at €15 million at September 30, down €26 million from the year earlier period.

Third-quarter operating highlights

- **Acquisition and partnerships**
 - On September 12, bioMérieux acquired **BTF**, an Australian company that provides the world's most precise quantitative reference standards for microbiological testing. Its patented BioBall™ technology is used in quality assurance, to verify the performance of control methods. Based in Sydney, BTF employs 24 people, with 2006 sales of AU\$ 4 million.
 - On September 14, bioMérieux and **Ipsen** signed an agreement by which bioMérieux will develop a companion test for a new breast cancer drug currently in phase I clinical development.
 - In an extension to the exclusive agreement signed last May with **AdvanDx, Inc.** to distribute the company's molecular biology products in North America, bioMérieux has acquired a 5% stake in the company for \$5 million.
- **New product launches.** 7 new products were introduced during the half, including:
 - **VIDAS[®] C. difficile Toxin A&B**, the first automated, standardized detection test for *Clostridium difficile* bacteria responsible for fatal hospital-acquired epidemics in Canada, the United States and, more recently, Europe. Launched in Europe on July 24, the test significantly increases detection sensitivity and reliability, enabling faster therapeutic decision-making and patient isolation measures in order to prevent all types of transmission of the bacterium.
 - **VIDAS[®] NT-proBNP**, which provides diagnostic information that helps distinguish heart failure from other disease states with similar clinical symptoms, for instance lung diseases or pulmonary embolism. Launched in Europe on October 1, the test can also be used to assess the prognosis of patients with established heart failure or acute coronary syndrome.
- **Disputes**
 - bioMérieux and GeneOhm Sciences Canada, a subsidiary of Becton, Dickinson and Company, concluded a settlement on several license agreements in the field of Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) detection.
 - In their action for infringement of a patent for a mycoplasma detection method, D.B.V. and International Microbio appealed the June 13 favorable ruling by the Paris Appeals Court.

- **Proposed industrial reorganization:** the study to determine the feasibility of closing the Boxtel plant is still being conducted in concertation with bioMérieux BV employee representatives.

Business environment

- **Competitive environment:** On July 25, Siemens made a public offer to purchase Dade Behring, a bioMérieux competitor in the field of automated microbial identification and antibiotic susceptibility testing (ID/AST).
- **Currency environment:** The euro continued to strengthen against the dollar in the third quarter, rising to €1.42 to the dollar on September 30 from €1.35 on June 30. This is adversely affecting consolidated net sales but only has a limited impact on earnings, due to the current cost structure.

2007 Objectives

Based on nine-month business performance and current sales momentum, full-year sales growth may exceed the announced 6% to 7% range, on a like-for-like-basis and excluding any acquisitions.

Next financial press releases

Fourth quarter sales: January 22, 2008

The above forward-looking statements are based, entirely or partially, on assessments or judgments that may change or be modified, due to uncertainties and risks related to the Company's economic, financial, regulatory and competitive environment, notably those described in the 2006 Registration Document. Accordingly, the Company cannot give any assurance as to whether it will achieve the objectives described above. The Company does not undertake to update or otherwise revise any forecasts or objectives presented herein, except in compliance with the disclosure obligations applicable to companies whose shares are listed on a stock exchange.

About bioMérieux

Advancing diagnostics to improve public health

A world leader in the field of in vitro diagnostics for over 40 years, bioMérieux is present in more than 150 countries through 35 subsidiaries and a large network of distributors. In 2006, revenues reached €1,037 billion with 83% of sales outside of France.

bioMérieux provides diagnostic solutions (reagents, instruments, software) which determine the source of disease and contamination to improve patient health and ensure consumer safety. Our products are used for diagnosing infectious diseases and providing high medical value results for cardiovascular emergencies and cancer screening and monitoring. They are also used for detecting microorganisms in agri-food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products. bioMérieux is listed on Eurolist by Euronext. Other information can be found at www.biomerieux.com.

Contacts

Investor Relations

bioMérieux

Hervé Laurent

Tel: +33 (0)4 78 87 22 37

investor.relations@eu.biomerieux.com

LT Value

Nancy Levain

Tel: +33 (0)1 44 50 39 30

nancy.levain@ltvalue.com

Media Relations

bioMérieux

Koren Wolman-Tardy

Tel: + 33 (0)4 78 87 20 08

media@eu.biomerieux.com

Image Sept

Laurence Heilbronn

Tel: + 33 (0)1 53 70 74 59

lheilbronn@image7.fr

Tiphaine Hecketsweiler

Tel: + 33 (0)1 53 70 74 95

Thecketsweiler@image7.fr