



PRESS RELEASE

First-Quarter 2007 Sales

Up 6.8% Like-For-Like

(MARCY L'ÉTOILE, FRANCE – APRIL 23, 2007) – bioMérieux (Euronext: BIM), a global leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, today released its business review for the first three months of 2007.

Financial review

- ◆ Sales

Net sales amounted to €255.3 million in the first quarter of 2007, an increase of 6.8% at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation (like-for-like).

| in € millions | Q1 2007 | Q1 2006 | % change | % change (like-for-like) |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Europe ⁽¹⁾ | 151.2 | 145.8 | +3.7% | +6.2% |
| North America | 63.9 | 66.5 | -3.9% | +11.4% |
| Asia-Pacific | 25.6 | 27.0 | -5.3% | +3.8% |
| Latin America | 14.6 | 16.3 | -10.8% | -0.4% |
| TOTAL | 255.3 | 255.6 | -0.1% | +6.8% |

(1) Including the Middle East and Africa

Sales were stable on a reported basis, i.e. including the currency effect, the divestment of the hemostasis business, the phase-out of North American microplate production and the consolidation of Bacterial Barcodes, Inc., acquired on September 15, 2006.

"We're satisfied with our first-quarter performance," noted Chief Executive Officer Stéphane Bancel. "Growth was strong in Europe and North America, but more mixed in other regions. We won major contracts, launched important new products and carried out strategic business development operations. As a result, we're reaffirming our 2007 sales growth guidance of 6 to 7%, at comparable exchange rates and scope of consolidation."

Geographically, like-for-like sales may be analyzed as follows.

- Sales in the **Europe - Middle East - Africa** region rose by 6.2% during the quarter. Outside France, growth in the region eased back slightly to 9.4%, with sustained strong expansion in Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain. The Middle East-Africa region also enjoyed fast growth.
In the region as a whole, growth in clinical applications was driven by the bacteriology and molecular biology lines, while the immunoassay lines saw slower sales of VIDAS[®] routine tests in Southern Europe. Sales of industrial applications rose by 12.5%.
- In **North America**, sales were up 11.4% for the quarter, with the success of the VITEK[®]2 and BacT/ALERT[®] bacteriological lines making a significant contribution to the strong growth in clinical application sales. Industrial application sales surged more than 20%, as the first TEMPO[®] systems were invoiced in the United States.
- Growth was a more subdued 3.2% in the **Asia-Pacific** region, primarily due to the contraction in Japanese demand caused by the reduction in reimbursements since April 1, 2006. On the upside, growth remained strong in South Korea and India, particularly in immunoassays.
- **Latin American** sales were stable for the period, with gains in Mexico and Argentina offsetting a decline in Brazil, particularly in molecular biology. Industrial applications reported strong growth across the region.

On a like-for-like basis, **clinical applications** rose 5.7% during the quarter, while **industrial applications** were up 13.3%.

| in € millions | Q1 2007 | Q1 2006 | % change | % change (like-for-like) |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Clinical Applications | 218.8 | 222.2 | -1.5% | +5.7% |
| Industrial Applications | 36.5 | 33.4 | +9.1% | +13.3% |
| TOTAL | 255.3 | 255.6 | -0.1% | +6.8% |

- In the **clinical segment**, bacteriology sales gained nearly 10%. Immunoassay sales were flat, however, as the start-up of VIDIA[®] did not fully offset an erosion in sales of VIDAS[®] routine tests in Southern Europe. Molecular biology sales were up for the period, after the sharp rise in instrument sales in 2006.
- The solid growth in **industrial applications** was led by all of the bacteriology lines (culture media, VITEK[®]2 Compact and BacT/ALERT[®]), as well as by sales of the TEMPO[®] system.

- ◆ Other financial items
- ◆ Substantial **free cash flow**^{*} was generated over the period, with the Company reporting a positive net cash position at March 31, after the Biomedics acquisition.
- ◆ The 4% stake in **OPI**, a biopharmaceutical start-up specialized in the treatment of orphan diseases, was sold during the quarter, resulting in a capital gain of around €2.5 million, which will be recognized in the first-half accounts.

Highlights of the quarter

- ◆ **Acquisition** of company: bioMérieux acquired **Biomedics**, a Madrid-based company that holds strong positions in Spain in bacteriology, particularly in culture media. The company, which has 30 employees and produces 11 million Petri dishes a year, reported 2006 sales of €4.1 million. Its acquisition has enhanced bioMérieux's culture media production capacity and significantly strengthened its presence in the Spanish and Portuguese markets.
- ◆ **New product launches**: The company introduced 8 new reagents during the quarter, in a commitment to:
 - Strengthening its line of products to fight against hospital-acquired infections, with the launch of **chromID™ VRE** and **chromID™ ESBL**, two innovative chromogenic culture media that ensure the direct, reliable and rapid isolation of multi-resistant bacteria, such as Vancomycin Resistant *Enterococci* (VRE) and Extended-Spectrum Beta-Lactamase (ESBL)-producing enterobacteria. These media are a valuable contribution to the range of multi-resistant bacteria detection tests initiated in May 2005 with the launch of chromID™ MRSA for the screening of Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. In addition, the **DiversiLab™** platform has been launched in Europe and Asia. Resulting from the acquisition of Bacterial Barcodes, Inc., DiversiLab™ performs molecular microbial genotyping in hospital and industrial environment.
 - Extending its sepsis testing range with the **VIDAS® B·R·A·H·M·S PCT**. The new, CE approved test was developed following the licensing agreement signed with B·R·A·H·M·S, enabling bioMérieux to develop, produce and market a test for measuring procalcitonin (PCT) levels, which have been recognized as a marker of choice to assist clinicians in the early detection and therapeutic follow-up of bacterial infections.
- ◆ **Major contacts**
 - Japan's largest laboratory chain, **BioMedical Laboratories Inc.** (BML), has placed an order for 28 VITEK® 2 XL, whose technology enables fully automated microbial identification and antibiotic susceptibility testing (ID/AST). The order will be booked upon the installation of the instruments, in around mid-year.
 - National Procurement, a division of **NHS National Services Scotland** and the Scottish Microbiology Forum have awarded bioMérieux a major contract to supply each of Scotland's 27 NHS clinical microbiology laboratories with a VITEK® 2 system for standardizing antibiotic susceptibility testing (AST) and bacterial identification.

^{*} Free cash-flow is defined as net cash flow from operations less net cash flow from investment activities.

• **Partnership agreements**

- A worldwide exclusive license agreement has been signed with **NorChip** for rights developed by NorChip to an innovative, m-RNA based **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** diagnostic, for early detection of cervical cancer. The test will use the NucliSENS EasyQ[®] platform and be available during the second quarter of 2007.
- bioMérieux has formed a new strategic relationship with **Cepheid**, wherein the two companies will use the best of their respective technologies to develop and market an innovative line of **sepsis** test products on the GeneXpert platform. Cepheid will be in charge of manufacturing and bioMérieux will distribute the sepsis assays on an exclusive worldwide basis. bioMérieux has also granted a non-exclusive worldwide license to Cepheid under the “Hiramatsu” patents, which will enable Cepheid to develop and market an MRSA assay for all applications other than sepsis.
- bioMérieux and **ExonHit Therapeutics** have initiated their third program for the screening of cancer from blood. One of the goals is to assist physicians in deciding whether to proceed with surgery for **prostate cancer**, the most frequently diagnosed cancer in men today. Such diagnostic tests constitute a real innovation in the field of cancer, since they should allow the detection of cancers from a blood sample.

• **Disputes**

In April 2007, two favorable rulings were handed down in the action for infringement brought by International Microbio and D.B.V. against bioMérieux subsidiaries in Germany (where D.B.V.'s German patent was revoked) and in Spain (where the Madrid court ruled that there had been no infringement and invalidated D.B.V.'s Spanish patent).

Next financial press releases

June 7, 2007: Annual Meeting of Shareholders

July 27, 2007: First-half sales and business review

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 2005 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 4 78 87 22 37

investor.relations@eu.biomerieux.com

LT Value

Nancy Levain

Tel: +33 1 55 27 15 88

nancy.levain@ltvalue.com

Media Relations

bioMérieux

Christelle Chabert-Toujas

Tel: +33 4 78 87 52 01

christelle.chabert-toujas@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 59

thecketsweiler@image7.fr