



Press Release

bioMérieux — First-Quarter 2009 Business Review

Sales Growth in Line with Objectives

Up 6.4% At constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation

Up 10.6% At constant exchange rates, including business development agreements

MARCY L'ETOILE, France, April 23, 2009 — bioMérieux, a global leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, released its quarterly business review through March 31, 2009.

As of March 31, 2009, net sales amounted to €286 million, up 6.4% at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation (on a like-for-like basis) versus the first quarter of 2008. Factoring in sales related to business development agreements, the increase was 10.6% at constant exchange rates.

Sales by Region In € Millions	Three Months Ended March 31, 2009	Three Months Ended March 31, 2008	% Change	% Change Like-for-Like
Europe ⁽¹⁾	166.9	158.5	+5.2%	+5.8%
North America	70.6	55.7	+26.8%	+3.0%
Asia-Pacific	31.4	27.1	+16.0%	+12.5%
Latin America	17.1	16.1	+6.1%	+13.9%
TOTAL	286.0	257.4	+11.1%	+6.4%

⁽¹⁾ Including the Middle East and Africa

"Our first-quarter sales growth is in line with our objectives," commented Stéphane Bancel, bioMérieux's Chief Executive Officer. "In today's difficult financial and economic climate, our product diversification, our strong international presence and our recent acquisitions have driven our sales growth. These achievements allow us to confirm our 2009 sales growth target."

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

On a reported basis, net sales were up 11.1% at the end of March 2009:

Analysis of Sales		
In € Millions		
Sales — Three Months Ended March 31, 2008	257	
Currency Effect	+1	
Organic Growth (Like-for-Like)	+17	+6.4%
Changes in Scope ⁽¹⁾	+11	+4.2%
Sales — Three Months Ended March 31, 2009	286	+10.6%

⁽¹⁾ Of which €9 million from acquisitions, €2 million from new distribution agreements, and divested or discontinued activities

Like-for-like sales for the first quarter of the year varied from region to region.

- Sales in the **Europe — Middle East — Africa** region (accounting for 58% of consolidated sales) reached 5.8%. While sales in France were sustained during the first quarter of 2008 (up 4.1%), they declined slightly over the first three months of 2009, by 0.7%; the French Parliament's review of the Health Ministry's Ballereau Report, which aims to change regulations for medical diagnostic laboratories, has dampened instrument sales. Outside France, sales continued to experience solid growth, rising 8.5%. Sales reported in Germany, the United Kingdom and South Africa helped drive growth.

Sales from clinical applications remained dynamic, driven in particular by microbiology reagents and molecular biology. In the VIDAS[®] immunoassay line, growth in high medical-value tests remained robust, offsetting a slowdown in routine tests. Sales of industrial applications, which are more sensitive to the economic environment, saw a decline in instrument sales over the quarter.

- In **North America** (25% of consolidated sales), sales rose 3% over the first three months of 2009 in a particularly difficult financial and economic environment.

In clinical diagnostics, instrument sales declined, as certain laboratories were still holding off on deciding to invest in new systems. Due to sporadic flu cases last winter¹, growth in reagent sales was also affected by low demand for blood culture bottles.

Sales of industrial applications rose 7.1%.

- In the **Asia-Pacific** region (11% of consolidated sales), sales continued to climb, increasing 12.5%, driven by solid growth in clinical and industrial applications. Sales of VIDAS[®] immunoassays, in particular, rose significantly in the region.

- In **Latin America** (6% of consolidated sales), growth was driven by healthy sales for all product lines, rising nearly 14%. Virtually all the countries in Latin America reported double-digit growth.

¹ Source: CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) – www.cdc.gov

Like-for-like sales by application for the first quarter of the year break down as follows:

Sales by Application In € Millions	Three Months Ended March 31, 2009	Three Months Ended March 31, 2008	% Change	% Change Like-for-Like
Clinical Applications	242.6	219.6	+10.5%	+6.4%
Industrial Applications	43.4	37.8	+14.6%	+6.6%
TOTAL	286.0	257.4	+11.1%	+6.4%

- ▼ In **clinical applications**, sales were driven by the VITEK[®] and NucliSENS[®] reagent lines as well as the culture media range. The increase in VIDAS[®] reagent sales was particularly strong in emerging countries, driven by the comprehensive test menu.

In the current context, the Company benefits from its market position in diagnostics for infectious diseases, cancers and cardiovascular emergencies. Early diagnosis of these pathologies has a positive impact on patients' health, alleviates the risks of deterioration of their condition and helps to determine an effective treatment.

- ▼ In **industrial applications**, reagent sales were stimulated by strong growth in the BioBall[®] and TEMPO[®] lines; however, growth was negatively impacted by instrument sales.

Overall, sales of **reagents and services**, which account for the recurring portion of the Group's business, rose nearly 8%. By the end of March 2009, reagents and services accounted for approximately 92% of consolidated sales, strengthened by the acquisition of three companies — BTF in 2007 and AB BIODISK and PML Microbiologicals in 2008 — that solely distribute reagents.

OTHER QUARTERLY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ▼ The Group had 6,228 full-time-equivalent **employees** as of March 31, 2009; there were 6,140 employees as of December 31, 2008.
- ▼ **Net debt** stood at €36 million as of March 31, 2009, versus €51 million as of December 31, 2008.
bioMérieux has a €260 million syndicated line of credit available until January 2013. As of March 31, 2009, drawdowns on the facility amounted to €15 million.

FIRST-QUARTER OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

During the first quarter, bioMérieux launched a new range of innovative culture media (**Media Fill Test**) for the control of aseptic processes in the pharmaceutical industry. This control is required under Good Manufacturing Practices.

As part of its **FMLA[™]** (Full Microbiology Lab Automation[™]) strategy, the Company expanded the distribution to new territories of its PREVI[™] Isola and PREVI[™] Color Gram platforms, which were launched in 2008. The Company has also continued to develop new IT capabilities for its systems, particularly the automated updating of the biological database and remote maintenance.

INVESTOR CALENDAR

June 11, 2009: Annual Meeting of Shareholders
July 24, 2009: First-Half 2009 Sales

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 2007 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 BIOMERIEUX

Advancing Diagnostics to Improve Public Health

A world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics for over 45 years, bioMérieux is present in more than 150 countries through 39 subsidiaries and a large network of distributors. In 2008, revenues reached €1.111 billion with 84% 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. Its products are used for diagnosing infectious diseases and providing high medical value results for cancer screening and monitoring and cardiovascular emergencies. They are also used for detecting microorganisms in agri-food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

bioMérieux is listed on the NYSE Euronext Paris market. (Symbol: BIM — ISIN: FR0010096479). Other information can be found at www.biomerieux.com

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