



PRESS RELEASE

bioMérieux - First-Half Results at June 30, 2011

Operating income before non-recurring items

- ✓ Up 5.2%
- ✓ At 17.8% of sales

Two strategic acquisitions:

- ✓ AES Laboratoire, making bioMérieux world leader in food testing
- ✓ ARGENE, specialized in molecular diagnostics for immunocompromised patients

MARCY L'ETOILE, France - September 6, 2011 – The Board of Directors of bioMérieux, a world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, met today to approve the consolidated financial statements for the six months ended June 30, 2011. The meeting was chaired by Jean-Luc Bélingard and attended by the Statutory Auditors, who had performed a limited review of the financial statements.

Consolidated Data ⁽¹⁾ In € millions	Six Months Ended June 30, 2011	Six Months Ended June 30, 2010	% Change As Reported
Sales	673	651	+3.5%
Gross profit	363	342	+6.1%
Operating income before non-recurring items	120	114	+5.2%
Operating income	119	109	+8.6%
Net income of consolidated companies	75	72	+3.7%

⁽¹⁾ After R&D tax credit reclassification in "Operating income before non-recurring items"

"In first-half 2011, bioMérieux's operating income before non-recurring items was up 5.2%, bringing its current operating margin to 17.8%, a 30 basis point improvement over first-half 2010. However, in the fragile economic environment in Western Europe and North America, we are exercising caution and anticipating that organic sales growth could be around 5% for the year. Total sales growth in 2011 could be around 7% at constant exchange rates, taking into account the two recent acquisitions that have strengthened our position in two business areas offering significant growth potential," said Chairman and CEO Jean-Luc Bélingard. "Our long-term vision is unchanged and we will continue to implement our ambitious strategy focused on innovation and targeted acquisitions, while actively pursuing our R&D programs."

FIRST-HALF 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Two strategic acquisitions

- **AES Laboratoire**, in industrial applications

On July 22, 2011, bioMérieux completed the acquisition of AES Laboratoire, a leading French group specialized in industrial microbiological control, for €183 million. The company reported sales of €76 million in 2010* and has close to 400 employees.

The acquisition makes bioMérieux the world leader in food testing. Important commercial synergies will be obtained by leveraging the two groups' highly complementary product lines, bioMérieux's powerful commercial network and AES Laboratoire's promising platforms.

The two groups' sales forces will be combined by January 1, 2012, and AES Laboratoire's products will gradually be sold by the bioMérieux network starting in first-quarter 2012.

- **ARGENE**, in molecular diagnostics

On July 18, 2011, bioMérieux acquired ARGENE, a French company specialized in molecular biology, for a price of €37.5 million with contingent payments of up to €5 million. The company has 70 employees and reported 2010 sales of €10 million, with molecular diagnostics representing three quarters of its business.

Its comprehensive range of diagnostics for immunocompromised patients, a field with high clinical demand, reinforces bioMérieux's infectious disease offering. This acquisition will also make it possible to accelerate the time-to-market of a broad test menu on the new molecular platform currently being developed with Biocartis.

Integration of the new business will begin in September 2011.

Commercial offer

In the first half of the year, bioMérieux enhanced its commercial offer with the launch of **10 new products**, including:

- **VITEK[®] MS**, for bacterial identification in microbiology laboratories. This new mass spectrometry solution is fully integrated with bioMérieux's VITEK[®], the world's leading system for automated identification and antibiotic susceptibility testing, via the Myla[™] middleware. A request for 510(k) clearance will be filed with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the first half of 2012.
- The first **bioNexia[®]** rapid tests, produced at the Shanghai plant in China.

At the end of the first quarter of 2011, the Company informed the U.S. FDA, other regulators and customers that VITEK[®] 2 susceptibility testing results for the antibiotic **Piperacillin / Tazobactam** (TZP) no longer met previously stated acceptance criteria. Consequently, results of this test were deactivated or removed from the corresponding cards. The Company can, however, offer the manual Etest[®] as an alternative method. It immediately began developing a new version of the TZP test for commercialization before the end of the year and is working closely with regulatory agencies.

Lastly, during the first half, bioMérieux received 510(k) clearance from the U.S. FDA for its **EasyQ[®] MRSA** molecular test for Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and for the **VIDAS[®] TOXO IgG Avidity** assay, which makes it possible to rule out recent Toxoplasma infections in patients with toxoplasmosis.

* Annual sales estimated at March 31, 2011 (excluding Agrobio divested on May 17, 2011)

▼ Innovation

The Company's strategy is centered on innovation.

- bioMérieux is focusing its R&D investments on **developing assays and five new instruments**.
 - In microbiology, a new automated blood culture system and an incubator incorporating innovative imaging technologies.
 - In immunoassays, a new generation of the VIDAS[®] instrument and an automated point-of-care diagnostic solution under development with Philips.
 - In molecular biology, a fully-integrated system under development with Biocartis. **Biocartis** has indicated that the validation phase of its molecular diagnostics platform, which is necessary for regulatory clearance, could begin at the end of 2012, with the commercial launch by bioMérieux of the first CE-marked assays expected for mid-2013.
- At the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2011 Annual Meeting in June, **bioTheranostics** announced encouraging data* from clinical studies of CancerTYPE ID[®], Breast Cancer Index[®] and the new P95 assay, which have been reported in leading scientific publications. Within the Group, bioTheranostics develops innovative oncology diagnostic tests to drive personalized treatment. However, sales growth is slower than expected.
- Two collaboration agreements were signed during the period: with **Ipsen** in the area of theranostics, to facilitate long-term development of companion diagnostic tests for hormone-dependent cancers, and with the **Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences (SIBS)** in industrial applications.

Following the retirement of Dr. Peter Kaspar on March 31, 2011, **Alexandre Mérieux**, Directeur Général Délégué, was appointed Corporate Vice President of the Microbiology Unit, whose scope of operations has been extended to include the Molecular Biology Unit.

In June, bioMérieux organized the 3rd edition of its **World HAI** Forum**, which brought together over 70 experts in medicine, infectious diseases, microbiology and epidemiology from 33 countries. The main topic addressed at this biennial event was bacterial resistance to antibiotics, recognized by the World Health Organization as one of the greatest threats to public health.

bioMérieux will be a major player in **LyonBioTech** in the areas of diagnostics and technology platforms. Certified by the French government on June 9, 2011, LyonBioTech is the only Technological Research Institute dedicated to healthcare among the six selected. It will focus on infectious diseases.

▼ Industrial development plan

In January 2011, bioMérieux's new **Global ERP***** system was implemented in France. Closure of the **Portland** (Oregon, United States) plant is going ahead according to plan, with production scheduled to be finally discontinued at the end of 2011.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Since July 20, 2011, Jean-Luc Bélingard, bioMérieux's Chairman, has taken over the role of Chief Executive Officer and head of the Management Committee. Stéphane Bancel has joined Institut Mérieux as Senior Advisor to the President, Alain Mérieux, to contribute his expertise to strategic international projects.

* Press release available at: www.biotheranostics.com

** HAI : Healthcare-Associated Infections

*** Enterprise Resource Planning

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Sales*

Net sales for the first half of 2011 amounted to €673 million, a 4.3% period-on-period increase at constant exchange rates and comparable business base (excluding the impact of discontinuing culture media for the routine clinical test business in North America). Sales growth was adversely affected by the early delivery of certain orders in June and December 2010 to anticipate the Global ERP system launch in North America at the beginning of July 2010 and in France in early January 2011. Excluding this impact, organic sales growth would have reached 4.9%.

Analysis of Sales			In %
In € millions			
Sales - Six Months Ended June 30, 2010		651	
Currency Effect		-5	-0.6%
Organic Growth (at constant exchange rates and comparable business base)		28	+4.3%
Impact of discontinuing culture media for the routine clinical test business in North America		-1	-0.2%
Sales - Six Months Ended June 30, 2011		673	+3.5%

By region, growth was led by dynamic sales in North America. Moreover, following a modest increase in the first three months of the year, organic growth in the Emerging 7** returned to solid levels, rising by nearly 18% in the second quarter, with China representing one of the main drivers. These results contrast with the difficulties encountered in Western Europe, where sales increased only slightly because of a difficult economic environment and clinical laboratory consolidation.

Sales by Region	Six Months Ended June 30, 2011	Six Months Ended June 30, 2010	% Change As Reported	% Change At constant exch. rates & comparable business base
In € millions				
Europe ⁽¹⁾	359	357	+0.5%	+0.0%
North America	155	155	+0.2%	+5.9%
Asia-Pacific	99	88	+12.4%	+11.8%
Latin America	60	51	+18.9%	+17.7%
TOTAL	673	651	+3.5%	+4.3%

⁽¹⁾ Including the Middle East and Africa

At constant exchange rates and comparable business base, sales of clinical applications increased 4% over the period, led in particular by microbiology sales. Industrial application sales rose 6% during the first half, reflecting a good second quarter.

Sales by Technology	Six Months Ended June 30, 2011	Six Months Ended June 30, 2010	% Change As Reported	% Change At constant exch. rates & comparable business base
In € millions				
Clinical Applications	568	551	+3.1%	+4.0%
Microbiology	353	330	+7.3%	+8.7%
Immunoassays ⁽¹⁾	175	176	-0.5%	+0.2%
Molecular Biology	32	36	-13.2%	-13.3%
Other Lines	8	9	-10.7%	-19.4%
Industrial Applications	105	100	+5.4%	+6.0%
TOTAL	673	651	+3.5%	+4.3%

⁽¹⁾ Including VIDAS®: +4.4%

* First-half 2011 business review press release available at www.biomerieux.com

** Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia and Turkey

Consolidated income statement

- ▼ **Gross profit** for first-half 2011 amounted to €363 million (53.9% of sales) compared with €342 million (52.5% of sales) in the year earlier period. The period-on-period increase was 6%. Despite higher production rejects and a modest decline in average reagent sales prices, it benefited from sales growth, a positive currency effect, as well as lower costs of installed base depreciation and maintenance.
- ▼ **Operating income before non-recurring items*** totaled €120 million (17.8% of sales) compared with €114 million (17.5% of sales) in first-half 2010, an increase of €5.9 million.
 - In a period that saw the deployment of the Global ERP system and the reinforcement of sales and marketing teams, **selling, general and administrative expenses** stood at €182 million, representing 27% of sales.
 - **Research and development expenses** amounted to €72 million, or 10.7% of sales. At constant exchange rates, these expenses were stable compared with first-half 2010 when they increased by nearly 12%.
 - **Royalties from the patent portfolio** represented more than €4 million, down €2.4 million compared with first-half 2010, due to the end of royalties from patents on BOOM[®], NASBA[™] and blood culture technologies, which have expired.
 - **R&D tax credits** recognized during the period amounted to €6.6 million versus €5.9 million in first-half 2010.
- ▼ **Operating income** rose by 8.6% to €119 million, reflecting growth in operating income before non-recurring items and the decrease in net non-recurring expense to €1.3 million from €4.7 million in first-half 2010. Non-recurring items, in first-half 2011, included an additional provision of €1.1 million for depreciation of Greek public receivables. An initial provision was booked in first-half 2010 for €4.4 million.
- ▼ **Net financial expense** stood at €2.8 million for the period.
- ▼ **Income tax expense** amounted to €41 million. It represented 35.4% of pre-tax income versus 33.4% in first-half 2010, due to the tax deficit position of some subsidiaries.
- ▼ **Net income** rose by nearly 4% to €75 million in first-half 2011 from €72 million in first-half 2010, representing 11.1% of sales in both periods. Earnings per share came in at €1.88 versus €1.82 at June 30, 2010.

Consolidated cash flow statement

- ▼ **EBITDA**** increased to €159 million in first-half 2011 from €153 million in the year-earlier period, reflecting the €6 million growth in operating income before non-recurring items.
- ▼ **Operating working capital requirement** rose to €48 million from €37 million, representing 25.4% of sales versus 24.4% at June 30, 2010. This increase was due to the creation of safety stock and to higher average days sales outstanding (DSO) ratios, particularly for public sector customers in Portugal (390 days versus 297 days at June 30, 2010) and Spain (316 days versus 216). In Italy, average DSO was stable at around 290 days. In all, the Group's net public sector receivables in Greece, Portugal, Spain and Italy totaled €102 million.
- ▼ In first-half 2011, **capital expenditure** outlays totaled €45 million, compared with €50 million in the year-earlier period, including €30 million in industrial capital expenditure versus €32 million. Industrial capital expenditure mainly concerned the new Global ERP system, and the creation or modification of production infrastructures to prepare for new product launches.
- ▼ Taking these items into account, **free cash flow** before dividends and acquisitions amounted to €36 million for the period compared with €30 million in first-half 2010.
- ▼ **Dividends** of €38.7 million (€0.98 per share) were paid in June 2011. In first-half 2010, the dividend payout came to €36.3 million.
- ▼ During first-half 2010, €16 million was paid out on **acquisitions of companies** (Meikang Biotech, Dima and Zenka) and **other equity stakes** (Knome). As of June 30, 2011, the acquisitions of **AES Laboratoire** (€183 million) and **ARGENE** (€37.5 million) had not yet been paid out.

* Operating income before "significant, extraordinary and non-recurring items", which are included in "other non-recurring operating income and expenses"

** Operating income before non-recurring items, depreciation and amortization

- ▼ In this context, **net cash** amounted to €20 million at June 30, 2011, compared with €24 million at December 31, 2010.

As of June 30, 2011, there were no outstanding drawdowns on the Company's €260-million syndicated line of credit, which expires in January 2013.

Other financial highlights

- ▼ As of June 30, 2011, the **installed base** amounted to about 62,000 instruments, up 2,100 new units over the period.
- ▼ **Dispute**
 - The dispute with **D.B.V.** and International Microbio concerning a D.B.V patent for a mycoplasma detection method has been settled.

Human resources

- ▼ The Company had 6,422 **full-time-equivalent employees** as of June 30, 2011, up 1.8% from December 31, 2010. This increase is due essentially to a reinforcement of sales, marketing and manufacturing teams.
- ▼ An **employee share-ownership plan** was deployed for the third year in a row, enabling employees to acquire bioMérieux shares on preferential terms. In May 2011, one-third of all employees joined the new plan, meaning that more than over half of all employees are now bioMérieux shareholders.

2011 OBJECTIVES

In light of the fragile economic environment in Western Europe and North America, the Group is cautious and anticipates that **organic sales growth** could be around 5% for the year. This objective is based on sales growth at constant exchange rates and comparable business base, excluding the impact of discontinuing culture media for the routine clinical test business in North America. Taking into account the recent acquisitions of AES Laboratoire and ARGENE, sales growth in 2011 could be around 7% at constant exchange rates.

The Company confirms its 2011 objective of reporting **operating income before non-recurring items** of €255 million to €270 million, including an estimated €12 million in R&D tax credits.

INVESTOR CALENDAR

October 20, 2011: Third-quarter 2011 sales, after the close of trading

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 2010 Registration Document. Accordingly, the Company cannot give any assurance nor make any representation as to whether the above objectives will be met. 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 2010, revenues reached €1,357 million with 87% 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

CONTACTS

Investor Relations

bioMérieux

Isabelle Tongio

Tel: + 33 4 78 87 22 37

investor.relations@biomerieux.com

Media Relations

bioMérieux

Koren Wolman-Tardy

Tel: + 33 4 78 87 20 08

media@biomerieux.com

Image Sept

Laurence Heilbronn

Tel: + 33 1 53 70 74 64

lheilbronn@image7.fr

bioMérieux
CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

<i>In millions of euros</i>	Jan 11 - Jun 11 6 months	Jan 10 - Dec 10 12 months	Jan 10 - Jun 10 6 months
Net Sales	673,4	1 357,0	650,6
Cost of sales	-310,6	-634,9	-308,8
Gross profit	362,8	722,1	341,8
Other operating income	11,1	22,7	12,5
Selling and marketing expenses	-125,6	-238,8	-116,3
General and administrative expenses	-56,7	-103,2	-51,0
Research and development expenses	-71,8	-149,2	-73,1
Total operating expenses	-254,1	-491,2	-240,4
Operating income before non-recurring items	119,8	253,6	113,9
Other non-recurring income (expenses)	-1,3	-9,6	-4,7
Operating income	118,5	244,0	109,2
Cost of net financial debt	-1,9	-3,2	-1,4
Other financial items	-0,9	0,6	0,5
Income tax	-41,0	-81,4	-36,2
Net income of consolidated companies	74,7	160,0	72,1
Attributable to non-controlling interests	0,6	1,3	0,4
Attributable to the parent company	74,1	158,7	71,7
Basic net income per share	1,88 €	4,03 €	1,82 €
Diluted net income per share	1,88 €	4,03 €	1,82 €

bioMérieux
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS <i>In millions of euros</i>	NET 06/30/2011	NET 12/31/2010	NET 06/30/2010
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
. Intangible assets	116,3	122,7	115,8
. Goodwill	182,1	188,7	188,9
. Property, plant and equipment	330,2	340,1	333,5
. Financial assets	28,0	26,6	17,3
. Other non-current assets	26,1	28,0	29,7
. Deferred tax assets	20,3	24,9	33,2
TOTAL	703,0	731,2	718,4
CURRENT ASSETS			
. Inventories and work in progress	195,5	179,5	184,9
. Accounts receivable	400,9	403,0	383,9
. Other operating receivables	56,3	48,0	45,8
. Tax receivable	18,6	2,9	11,0
. Non-operating receivables	1,3	0,8	1,2
. Cash and cash equivalents	82,4	71,4	33,5
TOTAL	755,1	705,5	660,3
. Assets held for sale	12,0	12,0	12,4
TOTAL ASSETS	1 470,1	1 448,7	1 391,1
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	06/30/2011	12/31/2010	06/30/2010
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
. Share capital	12,0	12,0	12,0
. Additional paid-in capital & Reserves	897,7	800,9	819,7
. Net income for the year	74,1	158,8	71,7
TOTAL EQUITY BEFORE NON-CONTROLLING INTERESTS	983,8	971,7	903,4
NON-CONTROLLING INTERESTS	4,8	4,4	6,2
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	988,7	976,1	909,6
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
. Net financial debt - long-term	9,3	7,5	7,4
. Deferred tax liabilities	28,9	24,8	21,2
. Provisions	30,5	31,6	35,9
TOTAL	68,7	63,9	64,5
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
. Net financial debt - short-term	53,2	39,6	40,0
. Provisions	11,4	14,4	19,4
. Accounts payable	120,9	128,9	118,2
. Other operating liabilities	189,3	185,2	171,0
. Tax liabilities	25,6	15,6	26,3
. Non-operating liabilities	12,3	25,1	42,1
TOTAL	412,7	408,8	417,0
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1 470,1	1 448,7	1 391,1

bioMérieux
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

<i>In millions of euros</i>	Jan 11 - Jun 11	Jan 10 - Dec 10	Jan 10 - Jun 10
	6 months	12 months	6 months
Net income of consolidated companies	74,7	160,0	72,1
Net depreciation and provisions, and others	50,6	88,3	36,2
(Increase) / Decrease in fair value of derivatives	0,5	1,2	0,7
Net realized capital gains (losses)		-0,4	-0,1
Cash flow from operating activities	125,8	249,1	108,9
Cost of net financial debt	1,9	3,2	1,4
Current income tax expense	34,9	76,3	40,3
Cash flow from operating activities before cost of net financial debt and income tax	162,6	328,6	150,6
Increase in inventories	-21,1	-13,1	-14,9
Increase requirements in accounts receivable	-13,9	-37,5	-10,0
Increase (Decrease) in accounts payable and other operating working capital	-13,2	8,7	-12,6
Decrease / (Increase) in operating working capital	-48,2	-41,9	-37,5
Income tax paid	-34,3	-74,5	-30,3
Other	1,7	-14,4	-7,7
(Increase) / Decrease in non-current assets	-0,2	1,2	1,8
Decrease / (Increase) in working capital requirements	-81,0	-129,6	-73,7
Net cash flow from operations	81,6	199,0	76,9
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-45,3	-123,3	-50,3
Proceeds on fixed asset disposals	2,3	10,0	4,6
Purchase of financial assets / Disposals of financial assets	1,1	-14,0	-5,9
Acquisitions of consolidated entities, net of cash acquired		-12,3	-11,0
Other investing cash flows		-1,6	
Net cash flow from (used in) investment activities	-41,9	-141,2	-62,6
Purchases and proceeds of treasury stocks	-2,0	-0,8	
Dividends to shareholders	-38,7	-36,4	-36,3
Minority interests in capital increase		1,3	1,3
Cost of net financial debt	-1,9	-3,2	-1,4
Change in confirmed financial debt	-0,2	-6,7	-1,4
Net cash flow from (used in) financing activities	-42,8	-45,8	-37,8
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	-3,1	12,0	-23,5
ANALYSIS OF NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
Net cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	34,0	14,2	14,2
Impact of currency changes on net cash and cash equivalents	-1,6	7,8	10,4
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	-3,1	12,0	-23,5
Net cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	29,3	34,0	1,1