



PRESS RELEASE

bioMérieux - First-Half 2010 Results

Continued Profitability Growth

- ▼ Operating income before non-recurring items up 10.8%
- ▼ Net income up 13.7%

Two acquisitions in China and five new partnership agreements

A solid R&D pipeline

An ambitious industrial plan

Marcy l'Étoile, France - September 6, 2010 – The Board of Directors of bioMérieux, a global leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, met on Friday, September 3, 2010 to approve the Group's consolidated financial statements for the six months ended June 30, 2010. The meeting was chaired by Alain Mérieux and attended by the Statutory Auditors, who had performed a limited review of the financial statements.

Consolidated Data In € millions	Six Months Ended June 30, 2010	Six Months Ended June 30, 2009	% Change As Reported
Sales	651	590	+10.4%
Gross profit	342	317	+8.0%
Operating income before non-recurring items	108	97	+10.8%
Operating income	103	93	+11.7%
Net income of consolidated companies	72	63	+13.7%

“In first-half 2010, organic sales growth reached 6% despite the end of the H1N1 pandemic and the low incidence of seasonal flu,” said Stéphane Bancel, Chief Executive Officer. “Sales growth was particularly strong in emerging markets, while we experienced a certain loss of momentum in Western Europe due to the introduction of healthcare budget cuts. In addition to reporting sharply higher results for the period, we also achieved major strategic and technological advances. bioMérieux’s business model, which is founded on innovation and a continually expanding international base, has demonstrated that it is well adapted to the new environment. Our medium and long-term vision for the business has been strengthened.”

FIRST-HALF 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

During the first half of 2010, bioMérieux crossed several strategic milestones.

As part of its development plan in China, the Company announced two **acquisitions**:

- **Meikang Biotech**^{*}, a rapid test manufacturer based in Shanghai. This acquisition reinforces bioMérieux's position in the Point-of-Care and rapid test markets in both emerging and developed countries, and gives it fully-owned integrated manufacturing and R&D capabilities in China. bioMérieux plans to establish its Greater China headquarters, as well as its Asia-Pacific office and certain corporate functions at the new site. Dima GmbH, the company that distributes Meikang Biotech products, primarily in Germany, was also acquired during the period.
- **Shanghai Zenka Biotechnology**, which has all of the authorizations to market in China the principal culture media used by microbiology labs.

Reflecting its strategic focus on innovation, bioMérieux signed five **partnership agreements** in wide-ranging areas:

- With **Royal Philips Electronics**, for the joint development of fully automated, handheld diagnostic testing solutions for hospital use that can be deployed at the patient's point of care in emergency departments, cardiology units and intensive care units;
- With **Knome**, for the development of next-generation, sequence-based IT solutions for *in vitro* diagnostics;
- With **GlaxoSmithKline**, for the development of a molecular theranostic test to aid oncologists in choosing the appropriate treatment for metastatic melanoma (skin cancer). This is the second collaboration agreement with GSK in the area of theranostics;
- With **BG Medicine**, licensing the use, in bioMérieux's immunoassay systems, of Galectin-3, a new biomarker for heart failure development and progression;
- With **Shimadzu**, for the commercialization of a mass spectrometry system for bacterial identification in microbiology laboratories. bioMérieux will work with Japan-based Shimadzu and its subsidiary, Kratos Analytical, to adapt Shimadzu's linear MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry technology for optimized integration into microbiology laboratory workflow with bioMérieux's VITEK[®] antibiotic susceptibility testing platform. The new solution is planned for market launch by bioMérieux, together with the microbial database acquired from **AnagnosTec**.

Six **new products** were brought to market during the first half of the year. bioMérieux also announced the limited launch of **Myla**[™], a new middleware solution to improve connectivity, laboratory workflow and information management. Myla[™] is part of the Company's Full Microbiology Lab Automation (FMLA[™]) solutions and services. Full launch is scheduled for fourth-quarter 2010.

Moving ahead with its ambitious **industrial plan**, bioMérieux successfully deployed the new **Global ERP** system in the United Kingdom and Germany as well as at the U.S. and Canadian sites. As scheduled, the **Toronto** facility in Canada and the **Solna** facility in Sweden were closed during the period and their production operations transferred to other sites. The **customer service** rate, which measures the Company's ability to execute customer orders, was high, attesting to the deep dedication of bioMérieux's employees.

* Renamed bioMérieux Shanghai Biotech

FINANCIAL DATA

Sales *

Net sales amounted to €651 million in first-half 2010 versus €590 million in the same period of 2009, an increase of 6% at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation (like-for-like). Including the contributions of Meikang Biotech and Dima, the increase was 7%. Boosted by the favorable currency effect, reported sales in euros were up 10.4% for the period.

Analysis of Sales			
In € millions			
Sales - Six Months Ended June 30, 2009	590		
Currency Effect	+20		
Organic Growth (like-for-like)	+35	+6.0%	} +7.0%
Acquisition of Meikang Biotech and Dima	+6	+1.0%	
Sales - Six Months Ended June 30, 2010	651		

Sales growth was impacted by 80 basis points by comparison with 2009 sales, which were lifted by influenza A (H1N1)-related demand. On the upside, growth increased by 40 basis points due to the early delivery of certain orders to anticipate the Global ERP system launch in North America at the beginning of July. Excluding these two impacts, organic growth would have stood at 6.4% for the first half of 2010.

Regional sales performance was mixed. Sales growth in Western Europe was dampened in the first half by healthcare budget cuts and by ongoing consolidation in the clinical laboratory sector. On the other hand, strong sales growth was reported in emerging markets, particularly the Emerging 7** where organic sales rose by nearly 30%, excluding the H1N1 effect.

Sales by Region	Six Months Ended June 30, 2010	Six Months Ended June 30, 2009	% Change As Reported	% Change Like-for-Like
In € millions				
Europe ⁽¹⁾	357	338	+5.6%	+2.7%
North America	155	142	+8.8%	+6.5%
Asia-Pacific	88	69	+28.9%	+18.8%
Latin America	51	41	+23.7%	+10.2%
TOTAL	651	590	+10.4%	+6.0%

⁽¹⁾ Including the Middle East and Africa

The Company's growth drivers performed well during the period: clinical microbiology sales rose 8%, industrial applications sales were up 8.9% and sales of the VIDAS[®] immunoassay line were 8.1% higher.

Sales by Technology	Six Months Ended June 30, 2010	Six Months Ended June 30, 2009	% Change As Reported	% Change Like-for-Like
In € millions				
Clinical Applications	551	500	+10.0%	+5.5%
Microbiology	330	296	+11.3%	+8.0%
Immunoassays	176	160	+9.7%	+2.8%
Molecular Biology	36	35	+3.7%	+0.5%
Other Lines	9	9	-3.2%	-8.5%
Industrial Applications	100	90	+12.4%	+8.9%
TOTAL	651	590	+10.4%	+6.0%

* The press release on first-half 2010 sales is available on www.biomerieux.com

** Emerging 7: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia and Turkey

Consolidated income statement

- ▼ **Gross profit** rose to €342 million for first-half 2010 from €317 million for the same period of 2009. The increase reflected the positive impact of measures to reduce the unit cost of the Company's main products and a favorable shift in mix due to a sharp drop in sales of distributed products. On the other hand, growth in gross profit was dampened by higher royalty payments. Gross margin amounted to 52.5% of sales from 53.7% in first-half 2009, due to the effect of exchange rate variations on sales.
- ▼ Operating cost discipline helped to drive a nearly 11% increase in **operating income before non-recurring items** to €108 million, representing 16.6% of sales.
 - **Selling, general and administrative expenses** amounted to €167 million in first-half 2010 versus €159 million in the same period of 2009, an increase of just 5.2% despite the cost of deploying the Global ERP system. This performance was mainly due to tight control over employee numbers. Selling, general and administrative expenses represented 25.7% of sales compared with 27% in first-half 2009.
 - **Research and development expenses** stood at €73 million, or 11.2% of sales, representing an increase of 11.5% at constant exchange rates excluding business development costs.
 - **Royalties from the patent portfolio** increased by €1.5 million to nearly €7 million. Received royalties for the BOOM[®], NASBA[™] and blood culture technologies, most of whose patents have now expired, amounted to around €4 million for the period.
- ▼ After deducting net non-recurring expense of €4.7 million in first-half 2010 compared with net expense of €5 million in the year-earlier period, **operating income** was up 11.7% at €103 million. Non-recurring expenses in first-half 2010 included €4.4 million in provisions set aside for potential losses on Greek public receivables. In first-half 2009, they consisted mainly of costs related to the closures of the Boxel (Netherlands), Solna (Sweden) and Toronto (Canada) plants.
- ▼ **Net financial expense** stood at €0.9 million, unchanged from first-half 2009.
- ▼ **Income tax expense** amounted to €30.3 million or 29.6% of pre-tax income, comparable to the 30.1% reported for first-half 2009.
- ▼ **Net income** rose by nearly 14% compared with first-half 2009 to €72.1 million, representing 11.1% of sales. Earnings per share amounted to €1.82 versus €1.59 in the year-earlier period.

Consolidated cash flow statement

- ▼ First-half 2010 **EBITDA**^{*} was up by €14 million at €147 million, reflecting the €11 million increase in operating income before non-recurring items and the €3 million increase in depreciation and amortization expense.
 - **Operating working capital requirements** rose by €39 million in first-half 2010, compared with €34 million in the year-earlier period. Trade receivables represented 107 days' sales, an increase of 5 days compared with December 31, 2009 that was due mainly to the difficult economic conditions in certain Southern European countries. Net receivables (after provisions) from Greek public hospitals amounted to €20 million. At the same time, inventories were increased to meet the strong forecast growth in business and to ensure that there would be no disruption to deliveries during Global ERP deployment in the U.S. and Canada. Operating working capital requirements for the period amounted to 24.6% of sales.
 - In first-half 2010, **capital expenditure** outlays totaled €50 million compared with €57 million in the prior year period, including some €32 million in industrial capital expenditure versus €37 million. Industrial capital expenditure for the period primarily concerned the new Global ERP, acquisition of certain AnagnosTec assets, capacity extensions and the transfer of PREVI[™] Isola instrument production to the Saint Louis plant in the U.S.
 - After taking these items into account, **free cash flow** before dividends and acquisitions amounted to €30 million for first-half 2010 versus €29 million for the same period of 2009.
- ▼ **Dividends** of €36 million (€0.92 per share) were paid in June 2010. In first-half 2009, the dividend payout came to €32 million.

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

- ✦ **Expenditure on acquisitions of subsidiaries** (Meikang Biotech, Dima and Zenka) and **other equity stakes** (Knome) amounted to €16 million.
- ✦ **Net debt** stood at €14 million at June 30, 2010, compared with €2 million at December 31, 2009.
As of June 30, 2010, there were no outstanding drawdowns on the Company's €260-million syndicated line of credit, which expires in January 2013.

Other financial highlights

- ✦ bioMérieux has decided to phase out sales of its **VIDIA**[®] immunoassay system by September 2011. Launched in 2005, the VIDIA[®] system did not obtain market success, primarily because of its limited menu. Its phase-out will have only a marginal impact on sales.
- ✦ As of June 30, 2010, the **installed base** amounted to some 57,500 instruments, up 1,800 new units over the period.
- ✦ Disputes
 - In the United States, **Sigris Research, Inc.** has filed an infringement action with the California Central District Court charging that the easyMAG[®] instrument, developed and marketed by bioMérieux, infringes patents awarded to Sigris Research. bioMérieux contests the allegation and is preparing its defense. The Company believes that its financial situation would not be materially affected in the event of an unfavorable ruling.
 - **D.B.V.** withdrew its appeal to the Spanish Supreme Court during the second quarter, with the result that the dispute with D.B.V. and International Microbio concerning a D.B.V patent for a mycoplasma detection method is now being pursued only in Italy.

Human resources

- ✦ The Group had 6,345 full-time-equivalent **employees** as of June 30, 2010, following the consolidation of Meikang Biotech, Dima and Zenka (for a total of 112 employees) and the closure of the Toronto facility in Canada and the Solna facility in Sweden (for a total of 88 employees). There were 6,300 employees as of December 31, 2009.
- ✦ An **employee share-ownership plan** was established in May 2010, enabling every employee to acquire bioMérieux shares on preferential terms. Nearly 40% of employees participated in the plan.

EVENTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIRD-QUARTER 2010

- ✦ VIDAS[®] UP *E. coli* O157 (including H7)
Hyglos GmbH has received the 2010 Food Safety Innovation Award for the technology used in bioMérieux's **VIDAS[®] UP *E. coli* O157 (including H7)** test. For the first time, a phage protein has replaced antibodies in a commercially available assay that is able to detect even low levels of contamination by *E. coli* O157:H7, a strain of *Escherichia coli* that has caused many food-poisoning outbreaks in the United States, Canada, Japan and Europe.

2010 OBJECTIVES

In the current European market context, bioMérieux has set an objective of around 6% for **organic sales** growth in 2010.

It aims to achieve an **operating margin before non-recurring items** of between 17% and 18%, at constant exchange rates.

INVESTOR CALENDAR

Third-quarter 2010 sales: October 22, 2010

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 2009 Reference Document. Accordingly, the Company cannot give any assurance nor make any representation as to whether the 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 BIOMÉRIEUX

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 2009, revenues reached €1,223 million, with 85% 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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bioMérieux
CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

<i>In millions of euros</i>	Jan 10-June 10 6 months	Jan 09-Dec 09 12 months	Jan 09-June 09 6 months
Net sales	650,6	1 223,4	589,5
Cost of sales	-308,8	-563,8	-272,9
Gross profit	341,8	659,6	316,6
Other operating income	6,6	12,5	5,1
Selling and marketing expenses	-116,3	-217,1	-108,2
General and administrative expenses	-51,0	-98,7	-50,7
Research and development expenses	-73,1	-143,0	-65,3
Total operating expenses	-240,4	-458,8	-224,2
Operating income before non-recurring items	108,0	213,3	97,5
Other non-recurring income (expenses)	-4,7	-9,6	-5,0
Operating income	103,3	203,7	92,5
Cost of net financial debt	-1,4	-2,5	-1,5
Other financial items	0,5	1,4	0,6
Income tax	-30,3	-54,4	-27,6
Investments in associates			-0,6
Net income of consolidated companies	72,1	148,2	63,4
Attributable to the minority interests	0,4	0,4	0,6
Attributable to the parent company	71,7	147,8	62,8
Basic net income per share	€1,82	€3,75	€1,59
Diluted net income per share	€1,82	€3,75	€1,59

bioMérieux
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS <i>In millions of euros</i>	NET 06/30/2010	NET 12/31/2009	NET 06/30/2009
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
. Intangible assets	115,8	93,0	82,7
. Goodwill	188,9	166,9	167,5
. Property, plant and equipment	333,5	312,8	310,4
. Financial assets	17,3	10,5	16,3
. Investments in associates			1,3
. Other non-current assets	29,7	27,0	25,2
. Deferred tax assets	33,2	26,1	22,4
TOTAL	718,4	636,3	625,8
CURRENT ASSETS			
. Inventories and work in progress	184,9	158,6	162,5
. Accounts receivable	383,9	346,6	325,3
. Other operating receivables	39,9	33,2	30,0
. Tax receivable	11,0	22,2	13,7
. Non-operating receivables	1,2	2,4	3,8
. Cash and cash equivalents	33,5	47,0	27,1
TOTAL	654,4	610,0	562,4
. Assets held for sale	12,4	13,4	
TOTAL ASSETS	1 385,2	1 259,7	1 188,2
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	06/30/2010	12/31/2009	06/30/2009
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
. Share capital	12,0	12,0	12,0
. Additional paid-in capital & Reserves	819,7	642,0	642,0
. Net income for the year	71,7	147,8	62,8
TOTAL EQUITY BEFORE MINORITY INTERESTS	903,4	801,8	716,8
MINORITY INTERESTS	6,2	4,6	4,7
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	909,6	806,4	721,5
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
. Net financial debt - long-term	7,4	8,4	47,8
. Deferred tax liabilities	21,2	21,0	25,6
. Provisions	35,9	35,7	37,7
TOTAL	64,5	65,1	111,1
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
. Net financial debt - short-term	40,0	40,7	34,4
. Provisions	19,4	16,0	43,4
. Accounts payable	118,2	116,6	103,8
. Other operating liabilities	171,0	166,6	150,6
. Tax liabilities	20,4	19,4	12,1
. Non-operating liabilities	42,1	28,9	11,3
TOTAL	411,1	388,2	355,6
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1 385,2	1 259,7	1 188,2

bioMérieux
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

<i>In millions of euros</i>	Jan 10-June 10 6 months	Jan 09-Dec 09 12 months	Jan 09-June 09 6 months
Net income of consolidated companies	72,1	148,2	63,4
Net depreciation and provisions, and others	36,2	58,9	49,4
(Increase) / Decrease in fair value of derivatives	0,7	0,1	0,1
Net realized capital gains (losses)	-0,1	-3,0	-0,3
Cash flow from operating activities	108,9	204,2	112,6
Cost of net financial debt	1,4	2,5	1,5
Current income tax expense	34,4	54,3	25,8
Cash flow from operating activities before cost of net financial debt and income tax	144,7	261,0	139,9
Increase in inventories	-14,9	-0,2	-4,8
Increase requirements in accounts receivable	-10,0	-28,4	-8,1
Increase (Decrease) in accounts payable and other operating working capital	-14,2	4,8	-21,3
Decrease / (Increase) in operating working capital	-39,1	-23,8	-34,2
Income tax paid	-22,8	-57,6	-27,7
Other	-7,7	10,5	1,8
(Increase) / Decrease in non-current assets	1,8	-1,5	0,5
Decrease / (Increase) in working capital requirements	-67,8	-72,4	-59,6
Net cash flow from operations	76,9	188,6	80,3
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-50,3	-119,6	-57,2
Proceeds on fixed asset disposals	4,6	10,2	3,1
Purchase of financial assets / Disposals of financial assets	-5,9	8,3	0,7
Impact of changes in the scope of consolidation	-11,0	0,1	-0,4
Other investing cash flows	-2,5	-2,5	-0,4
Net cash flow from (used in) investment activities	-62,6	-103,5	-53,8
Purchases and proceeds of treasury stocks	-	4,7	3,9
Dividends to bioMérieux SA shareholders	-36,3	-31,9	-31,9
Minority interests in capital increase	1,3	-	-
Cost of net financial debt	-1,4	-2,5	-1,5
Change in confirmed financial debt	-1,4	-66,1	-31,9
Net cash flow from (used in) financing activities	-37,8	-95,8	-61,4
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	-23,5	-10,7	-34,9
ANALYSIS OF NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
Net cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	14,2	31,5	31,5
Impact of currency changes on net cash and cash equivalents	10,4	-6,6	-1,2
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	-23,5	-10,7	-34,9
Net cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,1	14,2	-4,6