



PRESS RELEASE

bioMérieux - First-Half 2009 Business Review

First-Half 2009 Sales

- ▼ **Up 6%** at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation
- ▼ **Up 10.3%** at constant exchange rates, including business development agreements

MARCY L'ÉTOILE, FRANCE - July 24, 2009 – bioMérieux, a world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, today released its interim review for the six months ended June 30, 2009.

Net sales amounted to €590 million in the first half of 2009, an increase of 6% at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation (like-for-like) over the first six months of 2008. Including the growth generated by recent business development agreements, the increase amounted to 10.3%.

In an international economic environment that has been much more challenging since September 2008, sales rose by 5.7% in the second quarter 2009, despite comparison with the strong 9.1% gain reported in the prior-year period.

Sales by Region In € millions	Six Months Ended June 30, 2009	Six Months Ended June 30, 2008	% Change As Reported	% Change Like-for-Like	Three Months Ended June 30, 2009	Three Months Ended June 30, 2008	% Change As Reported	% Change Like-for-Like
	Europe ⁽¹⁾	338	327	+3.4%	+3.7%	171.1	168.2	+1.7%
North America	142	109	+30.1%	+5.7%	71.5	53.6	+33.6%	+8.3%
Asia-Pacific	69	57	+19.2%	+12.9%	37.1	30.3	+22.1%	+13.4%
Latin America	41	35	+17.8%	+17.7%	23.8	18.7	+27.9%	+21.0%
TOTAL	590	528	+11.6%	+6.0%	303.5	270.8	+12.1%	+5.7%

⁽¹⁾ Including the Middle East and Africa

“bioMérieux’s sales rose by 6% like-for-like in the first half of 2009 and reached 10.3% including recent business development agreements,” said Chief Executive Officer Stéphane Bancel. “The improvements observed in North America since the first quarter continued in the second quarter, despite the difficult financial and economic environment. Our business model, built on the recurring sale of reagents and services, on a geographically and technologically diversified business base and on innovation, continued to demonstrate its strength. We therefore confirm our sales growth and profitability objectives for 2009.”

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

On a reported basis, after taking into account the currency effect and the impact of changes in the scope of consolidation, net sales rose by 11.6% in the first six months of 2009:

Analysis of sales			
In € millions			
Sales - Six Months Ended June 30, 2008	528		
Currency Effect	+7		
Organic Growth (like-for-like)	+32	+6.0%	} +10.3%
Changes in Scope of Consolidation ⁽¹⁾	+23	+4.3%	
Sales - Six Months Ended June 30, 2009	590		

⁽¹⁾ Including acquisitions (€18 million), new distribution agreements (€6 million), and divested or discontinued operations

Geographically, like-for-like sales for the first six months of 2009 may be analyzed as follows:

- ▼ Sales in the **Europe - Middle East - Africa** region, which accounted for 57% of the consolidated total, increased by 3.7% over the period.

Excluding France, sales rose by 5.6% despite the sharp economic slowdown. The growth rate is also impacted by an unfavorable comparison with first-half 2008, when sales rose by 10% year-on-year. Growth varied by country, with strong gains in South Africa, the United Kingdom and Belgium and a more modest performance in Spain and Italy. Sales of clinical applications rose by a firm 6.3%, while sales of industrial applications, which are more exposed to the economic environment, slowed over the period.

Sales in France, representing 15% of the consolidated total, contracted by 1.4%, dampened by weak instrument sales. Following the French Health Ministry's Ballereau Report, laboratories are still cautious about investing before the law for reorganizing the sector takes effect. In addition, sales of routine VIDAS[®] immunoassay tests continued to decline over the period.

- ▼ Sales in **North America** (24% of the consolidated total) rose 5.7% in first-half 2009, with an 8.3% gain in the second quarter confirming the signs of an upturn observed during the first three months of the year.

In clinical applications, growth was led by sales of reagents and services, particularly the VITEK[®] line and the NucliSENS[®] easyMAG[®] range, where demand has been boosted by the influenza A (H1N1) epidemic. Sales of both VIDAS[®] B.R.A.H.M.S PCT and the Ettest[®] line got off to a strong start. Instrument sales, on the other hand, continued to be slower.

During the first six months of 2009, sales of industrial applications were up 9.3%, building on their firm first-quarter growth.

- ▼ The **Asia-Pacific** region (12% of consolidated sales) rose by nearly 13% with a good performance in almost every country. The subsidiary in China whose sales rose 18% during the period is now the Group's seventh largest company. Operations in South Korea (sales up 17%), India (up 36%) and Australia (up 13%) also reported strong growth.

In clinical applications, growth was led by all of the lines except microplates. Sales of industrial applications rose close to 14%.

- ▼ In **Latin America** (7% of consolidated sales), all of the countries contributed to growth, which totaled nearly 18% for the period. Sales in Brazil rose by 12%. In Mexico, sales were up 24%, lifted by the influenza A (H1N1) epidemic.

Clinical application sales were driven by the solid growth reported by microbiology and the VIDAS[®] range. Industrial application sales rose sharply in every country except Mexico.

Like-for-like sales for the first half of 2009 may be analyzed as follows, by technology:

Sales by Technology In € millions	Six Months Ended June 30, 2009	Six Months Ended June 30, 2008	% Change As Reported	% Change Like-for-Like
Clinical Applications	500	450	+11.1%	+6.0%
Microbiology	296	264	+12.1%	+4.6%
Immunoassays	160	149	+7.1%	+4.1%
Molecular biology	35	26	+36.1%	+33.4%
Other lines	9	11	-16.0%	+1.9%
Industrial Applications	90	78	+14.4%	+6.1%
TOTAL	590	528	+11.6%	+6.0%

- ▼ Growth in first-half 2009 sales was led by **reagents**, which rose 7.2% over the period and accounted for 85.9% of the consolidated total, versus 84.8% in first-half 2008.
- ▼ Sales of **clinical applications** were up 6% despite the contraction in instrument sales. Sales of microbiology reagents and of high medical-value VIDAS[®] B.R.A.H.M.S PCT and VIDAS[®] NT-proBNP tests remained strong. In addition, molecular biology sales were led by the NucliSENS[®] HIV-1 tests and the NucliSENS[®] easyMAG[®] extraction system, which can be used to extract influenza A virus nucleic acids.
- ▼ Sales of **industrial applications** rose 6.1% over the period, held back by slow instrument sales. In North America, sales momentum was strong in both the United States and Canada, while sales in Europe were impacted by the unfavorable economic environment.

OTHER SECOND-QUARTER FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ▼ As of June 30, 2009, the **installed base** reached about 54,500 instruments, up 1,400 units. To optimize financial return on the installed base, some instruments were removed during the period.
- ▼ The Group had 6,282 full-time-equivalent **employees** as of June 30, 2009, reflecting an expanded international sales network (particularly in Asia-Pacific), the ongoing transfer of Boxtel's operations and the development of the new global ERP system. There were 6,140 employees as of December 31, 2008.
- ▼ **Net debt** stood at €55 million as of June 30, 2009, after the payment of €32 million in dividends. It amounted to €51 million as of December 31, 2008.

bioMérieux has a €260 million syndicated line of credit available until January 2013. As of June 30, 2009, drawdowns on the facility amounted to €35 million.

SECOND-QUARTER OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

▼ New product launches

Eight new products have been brought to market since the beginning of the year, including the following in the second quarter:

- **VIDAS[®] EBV** for the detection of the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), which causes 80% of cases of infectious mononucleosis (IM). Developed by bioMérieux Research & Development teams based on proprietary technology, the test is especially useful for doctors, since IM symptoms are similar to those of other diseases that are infectious (strep throat, toxoplasmosis, rubella, etc.) or non-infectious. It also helps to avoid the inappropriate use of antibiotics.
- The **NucliSENS EasyQ[®] HIV-1 v2.0** molecular biology test, to improve care of patients with HIV. The new test can be used with the first CE marked Dry Blood Spot sample collection technique for viral load monitoring, bringing testing to patients in remote locations.
- In addition, as part of its Full Microbiology Lab Automation[™] (**FMLA[™]**) strategy, bioMérieux now offers customers the LeanSigma[®] method to help them optimize their laboratory workflow and reduce time to results.

▼ Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic

To address the global influenza A pandemic, bioMérieux is adjusting its product offering:

- The NucliSENS EasyQ[®] Influenza A/B molecular test is being adapted to integrate the H1N1 viral strain.
- Extraction reagent stocks are being built to meet worldwide demand. Extraction of influenza virus nucleic acids is an initial step in testing on molecular diagnostic platforms.
- Production capacity is being adapted to support customers in the vaccine industry who use the Company's culture media range for the control and release of vaccines.

In addition, bioMérieux distributes Quidel's QuickVue[®] Influenza A+B and QuickVue[®] Influenza A/B rapid tests, whose effectiveness in detecting the H1N1 strain is currently being evaluated.

▼ Closure of PML Microbiologicals' plant in Toronto, Canada

To optimize its North American production base, the Company has decided to close its plant in Toronto, Canada. This facility, which was part of the PML Microbiologicals acquisition in December 2008, employs 74 people. The objective is to consolidate the U.S. production at the plants in Lombard, Illinois and Portland, Oregon. The closing is expected to be completed in the first-quarter of 2010.

OBJECTIVES

In light of the satisfactory sales growth in the first-half and the strength of its business model, bioMérieux confirms its objectives for full-year 2009.

INVESTOR CALENDAR

September 7, 2009: First-Half earnings released

October 20, 2009: Third-Quarter sales released

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 2008 Reference 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 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.

CONTACTS

Investor Relations

bioMérieux

Isabelle Tongio
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

Fleishman Hillard

Tim Baker
Tel: + 1 216 338-8086
tim.baker@fleishman.com

Image Sept

Tiphaine Hecketsweiler
Tel: + 33 (0)1 53 70 74 59
thecketsweiler@image7.fr

Appendix: Quarterly Sales Data

Sales by Region - in € millions						
	First Quarter		Second Quarter		First Half	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Europe ⁽¹⁾	166.9	158.5	171.1	168.2	338.0	326.8
North America	70.6	55.7	71.5	53.6	142.1	109.2
Asia-Pacific	31.4	27.1	37.1	30.3	68.5	57.4
Latin America	17.1	16.1	23.8	18.7	40.9	34.8
TOTAL	286.0	257.4	303.5	270.8	589.5	528.2

⁽¹⁾ Including the Middle East and Africa

Change in Sales by Region - in %						
	First Quarter		Second Quarter		First Half	
	As Reported	Like-for-Like	As Reported	Like-for-Like	As Reported	Like-for-Like
Europe ⁽¹⁾	+5.2	+5.8	+1.7	+1.7	+3.4	+3.7
North America	+26.8	+3.0	+33.6	+8.3	+30.1	+5.7
Asia-Pacific	+16.0	+12.5	+22.1	+13.4	+19.2	+12.9
Latin America	+6.1	+13.9	+27.9	+21.0	+17.8	+17.7
TOTAL	+11.1	+6.4	+12.1	+5.7	+11.6	+6.0

⁽¹⁾ Including the Middle East and Africa