



PRESS RELEASE

bioMérieux - 2009 Business Review

2009 Sales

- ▼ **Up 7.7%** at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation
- ▼ **Up 10.4%** at constant exchange rates, including business development agreements

MARCY L'ETOILE, France - January 22, 2010 - bioMérieux, a world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, today released its business review for fourth-quarter and full-year 2009.

Net sales amounted to €1,223 million in 2009, an increase of 7.7% from the €1,111 million reported in 2008, at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation (like-for-like).

For the fourth quarter alone, net sales amounted to €328 million, compared to €311 million for the prior-year period, up 7.5% like-for-like.

Sales by Region In € millions	Twelve Months Ended Dec. 31, 2009	Twelve Months Ended Dec. 31, 2008	% Change As Reported	% Change Like-for-Like	Three Months Ended Dec. 31, 2009	Three Months Ended Dec. 31, 2008	% Change As Reported	% Change Like-for-Like
Europe ⁽¹⁾	694	663	+4.8%	+5.8%	189.0	179.0	+5.6%	+7.2%
North America	289	243	+19.0%	+6.3%	73.8	72.5	+1.8%	+6.7%
Asia-Pacific	151	129	+17.0%	+12.6%	41.8	39.2	+6.5%	+6.7%
Latin America	89	76	+16.9%	+19.7%	23.4	20.5	+14.2%	+14.1%
TOTAL	1,223	1,111	+10.2%	+7.7%	328.0	311.2	+5.4%	+7.5%

⁽¹⁾ Including the Middle East and Africa

“In 2009, bioMérieux continued to develop at a sustained pace, in line with our objectives,” said Chief Executive Officer Stéphane Bancel. “Organic growth stood at 7.7% for the year, while sales growth reached 10.4%, taking into account recent business development agreements. We stepped up our expansion in emerging markets, extended our product offering in healthcare-associated infections and signed strategic agreements that will drive further innovation. These achievements enable us to set a 2010 target for organic sales growth of about 7%.”

SALES

Sales growth for the year ended December 31, 2009 amounted to 10.2% in euros, analyzed as follows:

Analysis of Sales			
In € millions			
Sales - 12 Months Ended December 31, 2008		1,111	
Currency Effect		-3	
Organic Growth (like-for-like)		+85	+7.7%
Changes in Scope of Consolidation ⁽¹⁾		+30	+2.7%
Sales - 12 Months Ended December 31, 2009		1,223	+10.4%

⁽¹⁾ Including acquisitions (€24 million), new distribution agreements (€7 million), and divested or discontinued operations

The **influenza A (H1N1)** epidemic had an estimated €18 million favorable impact on sales of QuickVue[®] Influenza tests and NucliSENS[®] easyMAG[®] systems, or 150 basis points of organic growth for the year. Although the H1N1 flu virus was being transmitted throughout the northern hemisphere in the fourth quarter, its activity had already peaked in most countries. As a result, the epidemic's impact on sales began to wane in December.

Geographically, like-for-like 2009 sales may be analyzed as follows:

- Sales in the **Europe - Middle East - Africa** region (57% of the consolidated total) increased by 5.8% over the year. Excluding France, where sales rose slightly despite difficult market conditions, regional growth stood at 7.3%. Sales grew across the region, except in the Netherlands, the Central European countries and the Baltic countries. In particular, strong growth was reported in Germany (10%), the United Kingdom (12%), South Africa (20%) and Scandinavia (11%).

Growth in the clinical segment was led by microbiology reagents (particularly VITEK[®] 2), NucliSENS EasyQ[®] HIV molecular tests in South Africa and demand related to the influenza A (H1N1) epidemic. Sales of the VIDAS[®] line rose by more than 3% over the year, despite declining sales of routine tests, notably in Southern European countries. In industrial applications, growth exceeded 10% in the final quarter and gained momentum.

- Sales in **North America** (24% of the consolidated total) rose by 6.3% over the year and by 6.7% in the last quarter alone, lifted by a favorable base of comparison.

In clinical applications, growth was led by VIDAS[®] reagents, whose sales were boosted by the strong start-up of VIDAS[®] B.R.A.H.M.S PCT, and by the molecular biology line, which increased by more than 50%. During the final quarter, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate passed different versions of the healthcare reform bill designed, among others, to extend coverage to more than 30 million uninsured Americans. One issue being discussed in the current reconciliation process concerns the final bill's financing mechanisms, including in particular a tax on medical device manufacturers.

Thanks to a good fourth quarter, sales of industrial applications climbed more than 12% over the year. Growth was driven by the delivery of instruments whose orders had been postponed since the economic crisis hit in 2008, as well as by heightened manufacturer sensitivity to food safety issues.

- The **Asia-Pacific** region (12% of consolidated sales) saw a nearly 13% increase in sales over the year. Sales rose by nearly 7% in the final quarter, held back by the unfavorable comparison with a more than 22% increase in the prior-year period. Driven by all of the product lines, sales in China reached 25% during the year, making the local company the Group's sixth largest subsidiary, ahead of the United Kingdom. Sales also continued to grow rapidly in India (24%) and South Korea (14%).

Sales of clinical applications were strong across all product lines, except for microplates, where competitive pressure is high. In particular, the VIDAS[®] line gained more than 17%.

- Sales in **Latin America** (7% of the consolidated total) increased by nearly 20%. The influenza A (H1N1) epidemic drove very strong sales growth in Mexico. All of the countries reported robust growth, with sales rising 13% in Brazil and Colombia, 23% in Argentina and 32% in Chile.

Sales of microbiology reagents, VIDAS[®] tests and rapid tests spurred strong growth in clinical applications, while industrial applications continued to report sustained gains across the region, except in Mexico.

Like-for-like sales for full-year 2009 may be analyzed by technology as follows:

Sales by Technology In € millions	Twelve Months Ended Dec. 31, 2009	Twelve Months Ended Dec. 31, 2008	% Change As Reported	% Change Like-for-Like
Clinical Applications	1,034	944	+9.5%	+7.4%
Microbiology	613	562	+9.0%	+5.5%
Immunoassays	326	304	+7.2%	+6.7%
Molecular Biology	76	57	+33.1%	+30.9%
Other Lines	19	21	-8.2%	+6.8%
Industrial Applications	189	167	+13.8%	+9.0%
TOTAL	1,223	1,111	+10.2%	+7.7%

- Sales of **reagents** and **services**, corresponding to the recurring portion of revenue, reported a solid 8.4% increase over the year. They accounted for 89.6% of consolidated sales, versus 89% in 2008. In the fourth quarter, **instrument** sales maintained the upturn that began in the third quarter, to show a slight improvement for the full year.
- Clinical application** sales rose by 7.4%, led by influenza A (H1N1)-related demand. Microbiology sales gained 5.5%, driven by reagents. As the laboratory sector continues to consolidate, customers are showing a growing interest in the FMLA™ concept with, in particular, the PREVI™ Isola and PREVI™ Color Gram automated platforms, as well as lab workflow audits. Sales of immunoassays, which primarily include the VIDAS® line, the microplates line and rapid tests, were up by 6.7%. VIDAS® sales rose by 5.1%. Expansion of the VIDAS® line in emerging markets and the success of high medical value assays are more than offsetting the erosion in routine test sales in developed countries. Lastly, molecular biology sales ended the year up nearly 31%, lifted by the success of the NucliSENS® easyMAG® system.
- Sales of **industrial applications** rose more than 13% in the fourth quarter to end the year up 9%, thanks in particular to the upturn in instrument sales.

OTHER FOURTH-QUARTER FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The **installed base** increased by 2,600 units to about 55,700 instruments at December 31, 2009. Part of the installed base of first generation VITEK® and BacT/ALERT® systems was replaced by VITEK® 2 and BacT/ALERT® 3D platforms. In addition, some instruments were removed to optimize the profitability of the installed base.
- The Group had 6,300 full-time-equivalent **employees** as of December 31, 2009, following the departure at that date of 130 employees as part of the closure of the Boxtel plant in the Netherlands. This figure reflects the strengthening of production staff, the development of the international sales network (particularly in the Asia-Pacific region) and the preparation of the new global ERP system. There were 6,140 employees as of December 31, 2008.
- Net debt** stood at €2 million at December 31, 2009, compared with €51 million at December 31, 2008. Outlays recognized in the fourth quarter included the payment of severance benefits for employees leaving the Boxtel plant.

As of December 31, 2009, there were no outstanding drawdowns on the Company's €260 million syndicated line of credit, which expires in January 2013.

- In December 2009, the Company announced that it had sold all of the shares in **ExonHit Therapeutics S.A.** that it had acquired in November 2005 during ExonHit Therapeutics' initial public offering. The sale was part of bioMérieux's regular stock portfolio management. The related capital gain should be offset by pending capital losses on other investments, and its net impact after taxes should not be significant.

bioMérieux continues to collaborate with ExonHit Therapeutics to develop blood biomarkers for the detection of colon and prostate cancers, addressing the limits of current techniques. Results are expected starting in March 2010.

FOURTH-QUARTER OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

▼ New product launches

During the quarter, bioMérieux expanded its line of automated screening tests for Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), one of the leading causes of healthcare-associated infections. As part of its commitment to providing customers with the most flexible and complete solution to effectively manage MRSA, the Company launched the following products:

- In the United States, **chromID™ MRSA**, a chromogenic media that enables visual identification of MRSA colonies in a patient sample.
- In Europe, **NucliSENS EasyQ® MRSA**, a new molecular diagnostic MRSA test on the EasyQ® automated platform. The test is CE marked and bioMérieux will be filing for 510k approval with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the first half of 2010.

With these two products, bioMérieux now offers hospitals and healthcare providers cost-effective alternatives for both emergency and routine patient situations.

Seventeen new products were brought to market during the year, including:

- **VIDAS® EBV** for the detection of the Epstein-Barr virus, which causes 80% of infectious mononucleosis cases. Designed by the Company's R&D teams, the new test has received CE approval and provides results in 40 minutes.
- **VILINK™**, a fast secure network connection that enables remote maintenance and incident resolution on VITEK® 2 installations.
- **VITEK® 2 PC 4.02**, a software application compatible with European antimicrobial susceptibility standards (EUCAST).

▼ Collaborative agreement

An agreement has been signed with **GlaxoSmithKline** to develop a predictive test to help clinicians select the most appropriate treatment for different segments of breast cancer patients. This test, based on emerging biomarkers, will be launched by bioTheranostics in its CLIA¹-certified laboratory, after which an *in vitro* diagnostic kit will be developed by bioMérieux and commercialized worldwide.

▼ Partnership agreement

A long-term strategic partnership has been formed with the French Atomic Energy Commission (**CEA**) to develop innovative diagnostic technologies for infectious disease management. The joint research projects will focus primarily on rapid bacterial detection and characterization using new spectroscopic or imaging methods.

▼ Chief Technology Officer (CTO) position created

In response to a fast changing technological environment and to bring innovative solutions to public health, the Company has created the position of **Chief Technology Officer (CTO)**, whose key mission will be to enhance the Company's technology portfolio through in-house programs, external research partnerships and targeted technology acquisitions.

▼ Deployment of the new Global ERP system (SAP)

On January 4, 2010, after two years of design and preparation, the new **Global ERP** system, dedicated to all of the Group's operations, was successfully rolled out in two subsidiaries, Germany and the UK, and in two functional departments. In line with the projected timetable, the system will be deployed in North America in July 2010 and in France in early 2011.

▼ Optimization of the production sites

As planned, all operations at the **Boxtel** plant in the Netherlands were terminated on December 31, 2009, except for a production team of 44 people who will remain on-site for the next six months to cover the time it takes to get microplate immunoassay reagents approved in certain countries.

Development and production of the molecular biology lines have been transferred to the **Grenoble** plant, where validation batches are being tested. The first easyMAG® reagent kits produced at the Grenoble facility were brought to market in late 2009.

Microplate immunoassay reagents will be produced by the joint-venture with **Shanghai Kehua Bio-engineering**. The production of the validation batches has been completed and testing is underway.

¹ Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments

2010 OBJECTIVE

Based on the strength of its business model, for 2010, the Company has set the **objective** of driving organic growth in sales to about 7%, at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation.

INVESTOR CALENDAR

March 8, 2010: 2009 Financial results and half-way update on the 2012 strategy

April 21, 2010: First-quarter 2010 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 2008 Registration 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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Appendix: Quarterly Sales Data

Sales by Region in € millions										
	First Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter		Full Year	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Europe ⁽¹⁾	166.9	158.5	171.1	168.2	167.5	156.8	189.0	179.0	694.5	662.6
North America	70.6	55.7	71.5	53.6	73.0	61.1	73.8	72.5	288.9	242.8
Asia-Pacific	31.4	27.1	37.1	30.3	40.9	32.6	41.8	39.2	151.2	129.2
Latin America	17.1	16.1	23.8	18.7	24.5	20.6	23.4	20.5	88.8	75.9
TOTAL	286.0	257.4	303.5	270.8	305.9	271.1	328.0	311.2	1,223.4	1,110.5

Change in Sales by Region In %										
	First Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter		Full Year	
	Reported %	L-F-L ⁽²⁾ %	Reported %	L-F-L ⁽²⁾ %	Reported %	L-F-L ⁽²⁾ %	Reported %	L-F-L ⁽²⁾ %	Reported %	L-F-L ⁽²⁾ %
Europe ⁽¹⁾	+5.2	+5.8	+1.7	+1.7	+6.8	+8.9	+5.6	+7.2	+4.8	+5.8
North America	+26.8	+3.0	+33.6	+8.3	+19.4	+7.1	+1.8	+6.7	+19.0	+6.3
Asia-Pacific	+16.0	+12.5	+22.1	+13.4	+25.7	+18.8	+6.5	+6.7	+17.0	+12.6
Latin America	+6.1	+13.9	+27.9	+21.0	+18.1	+29.4	+14.2	+14.1	+16.9	+19.7
TOTAL	+11.1	+6.4	+12.1	+5.7	+12.8	+11.2	+5.4	+7.5	+10.2	+7.7

⁽¹⁾ Including the Middle East and Africa

⁽²⁾ Like-for-like (at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation)