



PRESS RELEASE

bioMérieux - Business Review for the nine months ended September 30, 2009

2009 Nine-Month Sales

- ▼ **up 7.8%** at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation
- ▼ **up 11.2%** at constant exchange rates, including business development agreements

MARCY L'ETOILE, FRANCE - October 20, 2009 – bioMérieux, a world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, today released its business review for the nine months ended September 30, 2009.

Net sales for the first nine months of 2009 amounted to €895 million, an increase of 7.8% at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation (like-for-like). Including the growth generated by recent business development agreements, the increase amounted to 11.2%.

The influenza A (H1N1) pandemic had a positive impact on sales, particularly of QuickVue® Influenza tests and NucliSENS® easyMAG® instruments. Excluding this impact, like-for-like growth was an estimated 6.7% over the first nine months and 9% in the third quarter alone.

Sales by Region In € millions	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2009	Nine Months			Three Months			
		Ended September 30, 2008	% Change As Reported	% Change Like-for-Like	Ended September 30, 2009	Ended September 30, 2008	% Change As Reported	% Change Like-for-Like
Europe ⁽¹⁾	506	484	+4.5%	+5.4%	167.5	156.8	+6.8%	+8.9%
North America	215	170	+26.3%	+6.2%	73.0	61.1	+19.4%	+7.1%
Asia-Pacific	109	90	+21.6%	+15.1%	40.9	32.6	+25.7%	+18.8%
Latin America	65	55	+17.9%	+22.0%	24.5	20.6	+18.1%	+29.4%
TOTAL	895	799	+12.0%	+7.8%	305.9	271.1	+12.8%	+11.2%

⁽¹⁾ Including the Middle East and Africa

"bioMérieux achieved solid growth over the first nine months of the year, especially in the third quarter when sales were increased by demand related to the influenza A (H1N1) pandemic," said Chief Executive Officer Stéphane Bancel. "During the quarter, instrument sales in North America returned to growth for the first time since fourth-quarter 2007 and global sales of industrial applications rose by nearly 10%. We are therefore pleased to confirm our 2009 sales growth objective of 5% to 7% like-for-like, excluding the impact of the flu, and we are raising our 2009 objective for operating margin before non-recurring items, which we now expect to be over 17%."

SALES

Sales rose by 12% as reported in the first nine months of 2009, favorably impacted by exchange rates and scope of consolidation:

Analysis of sales			
In € millions			
Sales - Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008	799		
Currency Effect	+6		
Organic Growth (like-for-like)	+62	+7.8%	} +11.2%
Changes in Scope of Consolidation ⁽¹⁾	+28	+3.4%	
Sales - Nine Months Ended September 30, 2009	895		

⁽¹⁾ Including acquisitions (€22 million), new distribution agreements (€7 million), and divested or discontinued operations

Geographically, like-for-like sales for the first nine 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 5.4% over the period, with an almost 9% rise in the third quarter.

Sales outside France rose by 7.1% over the first nine months, with particularly strong gains in the United Kingdom, Scandinavia and South Africa. Operations in Southern Europe reported faster sales growth in the third quarter, after a difficult first half. In France, where the market is still uncertain, nine-month sales were stable thanks to a good third quarter, led in particular by microbiology.

In clinical applications, growth was driven by sales of reagents and services, in particular high medical-value VIDAS[®] tests and molecular biology reagents. In the area of bacterial identification, mass spectrometry is beginning to be seen in certain European laboratories. Instrument sales continued to be dampened by customers' reduced capital spending capacity and, in France, by laboratory caution ahead of the sector's reorganization. Growth in sales of industrial applications, which are more closely tied to the economy, improved in the third quarter.

- ▼ Sales in **North America** (24% of the consolidated total) rose 6.2% in the first nine months and 7.1% in the third quarter alone, benefiting from the strong increase in instrument sales and the impact of the sales force reorganization in early 2008.

In clinical applications, performance was supported by sales of VITEK[®] cards, molecular biology reagents, and a good kick-off of VIDAS[®] B.R.A.H.M.S PCT sales. The Company is carefully monitoring the US healthcare reform bill and related financing mechanisms. *In vitro* diagnostics help to improve quality of care and reduce healthcare costs over the long-term, two of the reform bill's major goals.

Sales of industrial applications climbed 9% over the first nine months, sustaining the favorable trend observed since the beginning of the year. Instrument sales were strong in the third quarter.

- ▼ The **Asia-Pacific** region (12% of consolidated sales) saw a more than 15% increase in sales, with a particularly strong 26% gain in China led by the success of VIDAS[®] (up 46%), the NucliSENS EasyQ[®] HIV-1 molecular tests and the impact of influenza A (H1N1). The distribution network is being optimized in China, a strategic market for the Company. Sales are growing rapidly in India (up 20%) and South Korea (up 15%). Sales in Japan benefited from the launch of the BioBall[®] line and the invoicing of certain instruments to Sysmex.

Clinical applications rose by 15.5%, driven by gains across every product line, while industrial applications increased by more than 13%.

- ▼ In **Latin America** (7% of consolidated sales), all of the countries contributed to robust growth, which totaled nearly 22% for the period. The influenza A (H1N1) pandemic drove high sales growth in Mexico.

In clinical applications, all of the product lines reported vigorous growth, while industrial application sales rose sharply in every country except Mexico.

Like-for-like sales for the first nine months of 2009 may be analyzed by application as follows:

Sales by Application In € millions	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2009	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008	% Change As Reported	% Change Like-for-Like
Clinical Applications	758	679	+11.6%	+7.9%
Industrial Applications	137	120	+14.4%	+7.4%
TOTAL	895	799	+12.0%	+7.8%

- Reagent** sales rose by a solid 8.6% during the first nine months, and accounted for 85.7% of the consolidated total, versus 85% in the prior-year period. **Instrument** sales, which returned to growth in the third quarter, were down slightly for the first nine months.
- Sales of **clinical applications** increased by nearly 8%. The growing need for influenza A (H1N1) virus detection drove strong sales of QuickVue[®] Influenza A+B rapid tests and the NucliSENS[®] easyMAG[®] systems, which are used for nucleic acid extraction. In addition, the period saw strong sales of microbiology reagents, VIDAS[®] B.R.A.H.M.S PCT and VIDAS[®] NT-proBNP assays and NucliSENS EasyQ[®] HIV-1 molecular tests. The new VIDAS[®] EBV test got off to a good start.
- Sales of **industrial applications** increased by nearly 10% in the third quarter. Growth was 7.4% for the first nine months. While generally stronger in reagents, growth varied by region. Demand in Europe was dampened by a difficult economy, and instrument sales were lower than the prior-year period. North America, on the other hand, saw instrument sales maintain the upward trend observed in the first-half, with a 9% increase for the first nine months. Sales were also strong in the Asia-Pacific region and in Latin America, although volumes are still limited.

OTHER THIRD-QUARTER FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The Group had 6,396 full-time-equivalent **employees** as of September 30, 2009, reflecting the enhanced 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 €22 million at September 30, 2009, compared with €51 million at December 31, 2008. The strong cash flow generated over the first nine months of the year will be impacted in the final quarter by payments related to the closure of the Boxtel plant.

bioMérieux has a €260 million syndicated line of credit available until January 2013. As of September 30, 2009, drawdowns on the facility amounted to only €5 million.

THIRD-QUARTER OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

- New product launches**

Eleven new products have been brought to market since the beginning of the year, including **VIDAS[®] EBV** for the detection of the Epstein-Barr virus, which causes 80% of infectious mononucleosis cases, and **NucliSENS EasyQ[®] HIV-1 v2.0** for monitoring viral load in patients with HIV.

The following products were launched during the third quarter:

- VILINK[™]**, a fast secure network connection that enables remote incident resolution and maintenance of VITEK[®] 2 installations.
- VITEK[®] 2 PC 4.02**, a software application compatible with European standards for antimicrobial susceptibility testing (EUCAST).

▼ **Distribution agreement**

On September 30, **bioTheranostics** (company specialized in molecular diagnostics in oncology and acquired in September 2008) signed an agreement with UK-based Lab21 to commercialize THEROS CancerTYPE ID[®], a test that classifies metastatic tumors whose primary site is either uncertain or unknown. Over the next two years, Lab21 will market the test in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Middle East countries, while bioTheranostics will perform all sample testing in their CLIA¹-certified, CAP²-accredited laboratory in San Diego, California.

▼ **2nd World HAI Forum**

The Company also organized the **2nd World HAI Forum** dedicated to Healthcare-Associated Infections, a major public health threat. The event brought together some sixty experts from around the world to help the medical community develop concrete actions to fight against healthcare-associated infections.

▼ **Influenza A (H1N1)**

To address the global influenza A pandemic, bioMérieux is adapting its production and diversified product offering:

- Production of NucliSENS[®] easyMAG[®] reagents has been increased in response to strong global demand (extracting nucleic acids is the initial step in testing on molecular diagnostic platforms).
- The NucliSENS EasyQ[®] Influenza A/B molecular biology test is being redeveloped to integrate the H1N1 viral strain.
- To meet increased customer demand, the Company is building safety stocks of BacT/ALERT[®] blood-culture bottles and culture media used in vaccine quality control.

Furthermore, bioMérieux is distributing Quidel's QuickVue[®] Influenza A+B outside of the United States, Japan and Scandinavia. This test has been shown to detect culture isolates of the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus. The US FDA has authorized Quidel to include this information in the QuickVue[®] Influenza A+B test package insert. A clinical study is underway to establish the performance of the QuickVue[®] test in the actual clinical setting.

OBJECTIVES

In light of its solid sales growth and the strength of its business model, bioMérieux:

- Confirms its objective of like-for-like growth of 5% to 7% in 2009, excluding the positive impact of the influenza A (H1N1) pandemic on sales of QuickVue[®] Influenza tests and NucliSENS[®] easyMAG[®] instruments.
- Has raised its objective for operating margin before non-recurring items to over 17% for the year. This target excludes site restructuring costs.

INVESTOR CALENDAR

January 22, 2010: Fourth-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.

¹ CLIA - Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments

² CAP - College of American Pathologists

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

Laurence Heilbronn
Tel: + 33 (0)1 53 70 74 64
lheilbronn@image7.fr

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		Third Quarter		9 Months	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Europe ⁽¹⁾	166.9	158.5	171.1	168.2	338.0	326.8	167.5	156.8	505.5	483.6
North America	70.6	55.7	71.5	53.6	142.1	109.2	73.0	61.1	215.1	170.3
Asia-Pacific	31.4	27.1	37.1	30.3	68.5	57.4	40.9	32.6	109.4	90.0
Latin America	17.1	16.1	23.8	18.7	40.9	34.8	24.5	20.6	65.4	55.4
TOTAL	286.0	257.4	303.5	270.8	589.5	528.2	305.9	271.1	895.4	799.3

Change in Sales by Region										
In %										
	First Quarter		Second Quarter		First Half		Third Quarter		9 Months	
	Reported %	L-for-L ⁽²⁾ %	Reported %	L-for-L ⁽²⁾ %	Reported %	L-for-L ⁽²⁾ %	Reported %	L-for-L ⁽²⁾ %	Reported %	L-for-L ⁽²⁾ %
Europe ⁽¹⁾	+5.2	+5.8	+1.7	+1.7	+3.4	+3.7	+6.8	+8.9	+4.5	+5.4
North America	+26.8	+3.0	+33.6	+8.3	+30.1	+5.7	+19.4	+7.1	+26.3	+6.2
Asia-Pacific	+16.0	+12.5	+22.1	+13.4	+19.2	+12.9	+25.7	+18.8	+21.6	+15.1
Latin America	+6.1	+13.9	+27.9	+21.0	+17.8	+17.7	+18.1	+29.4	+17.9	+22.0
TOTAL	+11.1	+6.4	+12.1	+5.7	+11.6	+6.0	+12.8	+11.2	+12.0	+7.8

⁽¹⁾ Including the Middle East and Africa

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