



First-Half 2007 Sales

Up 6.7% Like-For-Like

(MARCY L'ETOILE, FRANCE – July 27, 2007) – bioMérieux (Euronext: BIM), a global leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, today released its business review for the first six months of 2007.

Because the first half of the Company's fiscal year began before January 20, 2007, this interim review has been prepared in narrative form, in line with *Autorité des Marchés Financiers* guidance on the application of article L 451-1-2 of the Monetary and Financial Code.

Financial review

- ◆ Sales

Net sales amounted to €518.1 million in the first half of 2007, an increase of 6.7% at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation (like-for-like).

In € millions	H1 2007	H1 2006	% change		Q2 2007	Q2 2006	% change	
			Reported	% change (like-for-like)			Reported	% change (like-for-like)
Europe⁽¹⁾	303.4	294.4	+3.1%	+5.7%	152.1	148.6	+2.4%	+5.1%
North America	128.5	133.2	-3.5%	+9.8%	64.7	66.7	-3.1%	+8.4%
Asia-Pacific	55.3	54.8	+0.9%	+9.5%	29.7	27.7	+7.0%	+14.3%
Latin America	30.9	34.0	-9.0%	-0.6%	16.3	17.7	-7.4%	-1.5%
TOTAL	518.1	516.4	+0.3%	+6.7%	262.8	260.7	+0.8%	+6.5%

(1) Including the Middle East and Africa

Reported growth was reduced by a negative currency effect (3.1 points) and by changes in the scope of consolidation (3.3 points). The latter reflected the disposal of the hemostasis business and the phase-out of the microplate business in North America, as well as the consolidation of Bacterial Barcodes Inc. as from September 15, 2006 and of Biomedics as from March 30, 2007.

"We're satisfied with our first-half performance," noted Chief Executive Officer Stéphane Bancel. "bioMérieux maintained robust organic growth and carried out several business development transactions, in particular to expand our portfolio of microbiology lab automation solutions. The healthy outlook for the second half leads us to forecast full-year growth in sales at the high end of 6-7%, on a like-for-like-basis and before any other business development transactions."

Geographically, like-for-like sales may be analyzed as follows.

- Sales in the **Europe - Middle East – Africa** region, which accounted for 58% of consolidated business, increased by 5.7% over the period, with sustained strong expansion in Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain and the Middle East-Africa region. Excluding France, where sales nevertheless edged up over the period, growth in the region stood at 7.7%.
In clinical applications, growth was led by the bacteriology (especially the VITEK®2) and molecular biology lines. Immunoassay sales were stable, reflecting lower sales of VIDAS® routine tests in Southern Europe and more aggressive competition in the microplate segment. Sales of industrial applications were up by 8.2%.
- In **North America** (25% of the consolidated total) sales rose 9.8% during the half, led by a strong performance in the VITEK®2 and BacT/ALERT® bacteriological lines in the clinical application segment. The favorable response to the TEMPO® system in the United States and higher sales of BacT/ALERT® reagents for sterility control helped to lift industrial application sales by 15.4%.
- Sales rose 9.5% in the **Asia-Pacific** region (11% of the consolidated total) thanks to a good second quarter, especially in China. South Korea and India continue to deliver strong growth, but performance was persistently disappointing in Japan, in a challenging market. Growth in clinical applications was supported by bacteriology, with the BacT/ALERT® line, by the VIDAS® line, and by molecular biology.
- Sales were stable in **Latin America** (6% of the consolidated total), as faster growth in Argentina and Mexico was offset by a decline in Brazil, particularly in molecular biology and microplates. Industrial applications reported strong growth across the region.

In all, **clinical applications** gained 6% like-for-like (6.1% in the second quarter), while **industrial applications** rose 10.9% (8.7% in the second quarter).

In € millions	H1 2007	H1 2006	% change	
			Reported	% change (like-for-like)
Clinical Applications	444.6	448.1	-0.8%	+6.0%
Bacteriology	258.4	245.2	+5.4%	+8.8%
Immunoassays	143.3	144.7	-1.0%	+1.0%
Molecular biology	21.8	19.7	+10.7%	+11.2%
Other lines	21.1	38.5	-45.2%	-42.3%
Industrial Applications	73.5	68.3	+7.7%	+10.9%
TOTAL	518.1	516.4	+0.3%	+6.7%

- In **clinical applications**, bacteriology sales rose 8.8%, led by VITEK[®], BacT/ALERT[®] and culture media. Immunoassay sales were unchanged, due to an erosion in sales of VIDAS[®] routine tests in Southern Europe and more aggressive competition in the microplate market. Molecular biology sales were up for the period, despite a decline in Brazil.
- **Industrial applications** continued to enjoy sustained growth, driven by all of the bacteriology lines, especially the TEMPO[®] system.

◆ **Other first-half financial highlights**

- Business volumes were in line with expectations and operating expenses remained under control. In addition, financial income will include the €2.4 million after-tax capital gain realized on the sale of the 4% stake in OPi.
- The Company continued to **invest** throughout the half, both to increase capacity at its major plants and to finance business development transactions.
- At the Annual Meeting on June 7, shareholders approved the payment of a dividend of €0.76 per share, for a total payout of nearly €30 million. The dividend was paid on June 13.
- After a good first quarter, less **free cash flow**¹ was generated in the second three months, which generally see major tax payments. After payment of the dividend and the acquisition of Biomedics, debt stood at €28 million at June 30, down €23 million from a year earlier.
- The **installed base** continued to expand, with 1,800 new instruments placed with customers during the period. It totaled around 47,000 systems at June 30, 2007.

¹ Free cash flow equals net cash provided by operations less net cash used in investing activities.

First-half operating highlights

• **Acquisitions and partnerships**

- Acquisition of Spanish firm **Biomedics** has enhanced bioMérieux's culture media production capacity and significantly strengthened its presence in the Spanish and Portuguese markets. The company, which has 30 employees and produces 11 million Petri dishes a year, reported 2006 sales of €4.1 million.
- Collaboration with **ExonHit Therapeutics** was pursued during the half, in particular in the area of breast cancer, where the findings of a performance study on 1,875 patients are expected to be released in 2008.
- bioMérieux has formed a new strategic relationship with **Cepheid**, wherein the two companies will use the best of their respective technologies to develop and market an innovative line of sepsis test products on the GeneXpert® platform. Cepheid will be in charge of manufacturing and bioMérieux will distribute the sepsis assays on an exclusive worldwide basis. bioMérieux has also granted a non-exclusive worldwide license to Cepheid under the "Hiramatsu" patents, which will enable Cepheid to develop and market an MRSA assay for all applications other than sepsis.
- An exclusive worldwide license agreement was signed with **LabTech Systems Ltd**, an Australian health care equipment and services company, concerning the future marketing of LabTech Systems' automated pre-poured media (PPM) streaker known as MicroStreak®. To support the alliance, bioMérieux acquired a stake in LabTech Systems for AUD 2.15 million.
- An exclusive distribution agreement has been signed with **AdvanDx, Inc.** to distribute the company's Peptide Nucleic Acid Fluorescence *In Situ* Hybridization (PNA FISH™) tests in the United States. Based on bacteria and yeast-positive blood cultures, the tests enable faster identification of bloodstream pathogens. The current menu includes *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Candida albicans*, *Enterococcus faecalis* and other species.
- An agreement has been signed with **Eiken Chemical Co., Ltd.** by which some Pre-Poured Media (PPM) marketed by bioMérieux in Japan will be manufactured by Eiken. The agreement will come into effect in August 2007.
- An agreement has been signed with **Sysmex Corporation** by which bioMérieux will become Sysmex's global partner for distributing its UF-1000i urinalysis system in microbiology laboratories. The agreement will enable bioMérieux to deliver a microbiology lab automation solution. Marketing is scheduled to begin in September in Europe, followed by the United States and then other countries in early 2008.

• **New product launches:** 15 new products were introduced during the half, including:

- **chromID™ VRE** and **chromID™ ESBL**, two innovative chromogenic culture media that ensure the direct, reliable and rapid isolation of multi-resistant bacteria, such as Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) and Extended-Spectrum Beta-Lactamase (ESBL)-producing enterobacteria. These media are a valuable contribution to the range of multi-resistant bacteria detection tests initiated in May 2005 with the launch of chromID™ MRSA for the screening of Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).
- The **DiversiLab™** platform resulting from the acquisition of Bacterial Barcodes, Inc., which is now being marketed in Europe and Asia. DiversiLab™ makes molecular microbial genotyping possible in hospital and industrial environments.

- The **VIDAS® B·R·A·H·M·S PCT** test for measuring procalcitonin (PCT) levels, a marker to assist clinicians in the early detection and therapeutic follow-up of bacterial infections.
 - **VIKIA® HIV 1 / 2**, a third-generation, CE-approved rapid test that detects HIV infection in human serum, plasma or whole and capillary blood in less than 30 minutes.
 - **NucliSENS EasyQ® HPV**, a CE-approved real-time amplification/detection test for the detection of human papillomavirus (HPV) in cervical cancer surveillance. It is based on directly determining the expression of oncogenic risk factors by detecting the mRNA of the E6 and E7 proteins.
- **Major contracts:** two major contracts during the half illustrate the advantages of VITEK® 2 technology, which enables standardized, fully automated microbial identification and antibiotic susceptibility testing (ID/AST).
 - The order from **BioMedical Laboratories Inc. (BML)**, Japan's largest laboratory chain, has been finalized and the sales will be booked beginning in July.
 - Part of the systems ordered by National Procurement, a division of **NHS National Services Scotland**, and the Scottish Microbiology Forum had already been installed and invoiced in the second quarter.
 - **Restructuring:** On June 7, bioMérieux announced that it was studying the feasibility of gradually closing its Boxtel plant in the Netherlands. The plant, which has 316 employees, develops and produces reagents for molecular biology and microplate immunoassay lines. It has reported operating losses totaling more than €20 million over the past three years. It could be closed by the end of 2009.
 - **Disputes:** Several favorable rulings were handed down in the action for infringement brought by D.B.V. and International Microbio concerning a patent for a mycoplasma detection method. On June 13, the Paris Appeals Court dismissed both companies' claims, on March 26, the Madrid court ruled that there had been no infringement and invalidated D.B.V.'s Spanish patent, and on April 17, D.B.V.'s German patent was revoked by the German Patent Court. Proceedings are still underway in certain other countries, however, and D.B.V. and International Microbio could still appeal the recent rulings.

Next financial press releases

September 17, 2007: First-half 2007 earnings release

October 26, 2007: Third-quarter sales release

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 2006 Registration Document. Accordingly, the Company cannot give any assurance as to whether it will achieve the objectives described above. 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 40 years, bioMérieux is present in more than 150 countries through 35 subsidiaries and a large network of distributors. In 2006, revenues reached €1,037 billion with 83% 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. Our products are used for diagnosing infectious diseases and providing high medical value results for cardiovascular emergencies and cancer screening and monitoring. They are also used for detecting microorganisms in agri-food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products. bioMérieux is listed on Eurolist by Euronext. Other information can be found at www.biomerieux.com.

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