PRESS RELEASE

bioMérieux - 2008 Financial Results

- Strong sales growth: +9.8%, at constant exchange rates, including business development
- Improved operating margin before non recurring-items at 16.8% of sales
- Substantial R&D and manufacturing investments
- Three strategic acquisitions and expansion of international network

(Marcy-L'Étoile, France – March 16, 2009) – The Board of Directors of bioMérieux, a global leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, met on Friday, March 13 to approve the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008. The meeting was chaired by Alain Mérieux and attended by the Statutory Auditors.

Consolidated data In € millions	**2008**	2007	% change as reported
Net sales	**1,111**	1,063	+4.5%
Gross profit	**593**	566	+4.8%
Operating income before non-recurring items	**187**	167	+11.9%
Operating income	**186**	150	+24.2%
Net income of consolidated companies	**130**	98	+32.6%

"*Within a context of worldwide economic turmoil, bioMérieux held its course in 2008. Maintaining its long-term vision, the Company strengthened its international network, its research and production capabilities. bioMérieux is preparing to meet tomorrow's needs for personalized medicine*," said Chairman Alain Mérieux.

2008 OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

New products

Twenty-seven new products were launched in 2008.

In particular, the **Full Microbiology Lab Automation**™ concept was presented at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) in April and the General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) in June. Two new platforms were brought to market during the year, the PREVI™ Isola automated pre-poured media (PPM) streaker and the PREVI™ Color Gram automated slide stainer. With six microbiology instruments, bioMérieux now offers the market's most comprehensive range.

Eighteen new reagents were introduced, including:

- three new reagents in the **TEMPO**® line to count yeast and mold (TEMPO® YM), coagulase-positive *S. aureus* staphylococci (TEMPO® STA) and lactic acid bacteria (TEMPO® LAB) in food products. The TEMPO® menu now comprises most of the required quality indicators;
- the **VIDAS® UP** reagent for the detection of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157:H7. Developed in collaboration with Profos AG, this innovative solution uses the phage recombinant protein, the latest food pathogen screening technology.

Installed base

The **installed base** rose to about 53,000 instruments at December 31, 2008, following the placement of 3,900 new instruments with customers during the year.

Acquisitions and agreements

- **Acquisition of three companies**
  - **AB BIODISK** was acquired in June, enabling bioMérieux to increase its lead in microbiology. The Swedish diagnostics specialist is internationally recognized for its antimicrobial resistance testing range and particular expertise in susceptibility testing of fastidious and unusual organisms. When acquired, it had 53 employees. AB BIODISK has generated €7.6 million in revenue since acquisition and offers strong commercial synergies with bioMérieux.

    In January 2009, bioMérieux decided to close the company's facility in Solna, Sweden, by the end of June 2010. The facility's R&D and reagent production operations will be transferred to the plant in La Balme, France, which makes API® strips.
  - On September 11, bioMérieux announced the acquisition of **AviaraDx, Inc**., a privately-owned company based in San Diego, California (USA) that develops and sells molecular diagnostic tests for cancer patients. Renamed bioTheranostics, Inc., it markets two innovative tests based on proprietary technologies. These tests are conducted in the company's high complexity Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certified service laboratory. Sales are currently limited, but the acquisition has strengthened bioMérieux's position in the oncology and theranostics markets, as well as in high medical-value tests.
  - On December 8, bioMérieux announced that it had acquired **PML Microbiologicals, Inc.**, a privately-held *in vitro* diagnostics company that provides culture media and microbiological products for both clinical and industrial applications in North America. It has manufacturing and marketing teams in Portland, Oregon USA and Toronto, Canada.

    PML Microbiologicals has 205 associates, of whom 172 are employees, and reported sales of $25 million in 2008.

    The acquisition positions bioMérieux as a leading U.S. provider of microbiology testing solutions for pharmaceutical companies and Canada's number one provider of culture media for clinical applications.

- **Three distribution agreements**
  - In January, a strategic partnership was formed with **Quidel** in the area of rapid clinical diagnostics for the point-of-care. bioMérieux is the exclusive distributor of Quidel's QuickVue® tests in all countries with the exception of the United States, Japan and Scandinavia, thereby enhancing its immunoassay offering. Sales of the tests under the bioMérieux brand began in May.
  - In February, an agreement was signed with **Wescor**, an ELITech group company, by which bioMérieux has become Wescor's exclusive worldwide partner for marketing two customized slide stainer instruments for Gram (PREVI™ Color Gram) and tuberculosis bacillus under the bioMérieux brand.
  - In January, a commercial joint venture was created with **Sysmex Corporation**, the leader in the Japanese *in vitro* diagnostics market, to promote and distribute the entire bioMérieux product range in Japan. As part of the agreement, on April 1, Sysmex acquired a 34% equity stake in bioMérieux Japan Ltd. and assumed responsibility for the joint venture's local sales and customer service.
- **Five R&D agreements**
  - In March, a partnership was formed with **Hitachi High-Technologies Corporation** of Japan to develop new microbiology and molecular biology systems.
  - In April, **University of Sunderland** and bioMérieux announced they were collaborating in new research to improve the identification of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a bacterium responsible for healthcare-associated infections and a major cause of death in cystic fibrosis patients.
  - In May, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the **Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics** (FIND), a Swiss non-profit foundation, to jointly undertake development projects in the field of infectious disease diagnostics, particularly for tuberculosis.
  - In September, bioMérieux announced the signature of a license and development agreement with German biotechnology company ProteoSys, concerning the **Annexin 3** biomarker. The agreement covers the development of a urine test to confirm prostate cancer diagnoses. The highly-specific, non-invasive test will help to reduce the number of unnecessary biopsies. After an initial research phase, it will be developed on the VIDAS® immunoassay platform.
  - In October, the **ADNA** (Advanced Diagnostics for New therapeutic Approaches) program received approval from the European Commission for research and innovation aid from the French public agency, **OSEO**. bioMérieux is a partner in this program coordinated by Mérieux Alliance.
- **An industrial agreement**
  - In January, a Shanghai-based joint venture was set up with **Shanghai Kehua Bio-engineering**, the market leader in Chinese diagnostics. bioMérieux's microplate immunoassay manufacturing operations currently located in Boxtel, the Netherlands, will be transferred to the new company.

New subsidiaries

bioMérieux pursued its international expansion in 2008. The distribution network now comprises 39 subsidiaries around the world with the creation of two new ones in:

- Singapore, to provide regional support for sales in the ASEAN countries, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.
- The United Arab Emirates, to serve bioMérieux operations in the Middle East.

The subsidiary created in South Africa in 2007 has integrated the diagnostics business of the company's former distributor there, while the recently opened Algerian subsidiary is now up and running.

FINANCIAL DATA

Net sales

Net sales amounted to €1,111 million in 2008, an increase of 7.5% from the €1,063 million reported in 2007, at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation (like-for-like). Including the effects of new business development agreements, the increase was 9.8% at constant exchange rates.

Analysis of net sales In € millions			
2007 sales	1,063		
Impact of divested operations[1] or discontinued operations[2]	(21)		
2007 net sales excluding divested or discontinued operations	**1,042**		
Currency effect	(36)		
Like-for-like growth, at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation	79	+7.5%	*+9.8%*
Impact of 2008 and 2007 acquisitions and distribution agreements[3]	24	+2.3%	
Residual sales from divested operations[1] or discontinued operations[2]	2		
2008 net sales	**1,111**		

[1] Hemostasis business
[2] Microplate immunoassays in North America
[3] Of which €13 million from acquisitions and €11 million from new distribution agreements

- Sales broke down by **region** as follows:

Net sales by region In € millions	**2008**	2007	% change as reported	**% change** like-for-like
Europe[1]	**663**	613	+8.1%	**+7.5%**
North America	**243**	263	-7.6%	**+1.6%**
Asia-Pacific	**129**	119	+8.7%	**+15.2%**
Latin America	**76**	68	+11.7%	**+15.8%**
TOTAL	**1,111**	1,063	+4.5%	**+7.5%**

[1] Including the Middle East and Africa

- By **application**, sales broke down as follows:

Net sales by technology In € millions	**2008**	2007	% change as reported	**% change** like-for-like
Clinical Applications	**944**	909	+3.9%	**+7.2%**
Microbiology	**562**	534	+5.3%	**+6.9%**
Immunoassays	**304**	288	+5.4%	**+5.7%**
Molecular biology	**57**	47	+20.4%	**+17.6%**
Other lines	**21**	40	-46.2%	**+11.9%**
Industrial Applications	**167**	154	+8.1%	**+9.7%**
TOTAL	**1,111**	1,063	+4.5%	**+7.5%**

- In 2008's challenging economy, sales growth was powered by **reagent** sales, which rose 9.6% during the year and accounted for 83.9% of the consolidated total, versus 82.5% in 2007.

Income statement

- **Gross margin** stood at 53.4% of net sales, versus 53.2% in 2007, while gross profit amounted to €593 million compared with €566 million the year before. The improvement was mainly led by higher reagent sales, which offset the unfavorable currency effect, higher transportation costs and the increase in royalty payments. Gross profit was also lifted by the fact that average selling prices held firm over the year, as well as the Company's continued actions to reduce the costs of non-quality and improve productivity.
    - **Selling, general and administrative expenses** amounted to €286 million and represented 25.8% of sales, compared with 26.1% in 2007.
    - **Research and development expenses** rose to €132.7 million, or 12% of sales, but the increase was limited by the decline in the dollar against the euro and the booking of grants covering expenditures committed over the past two years as part of the ADNA program. The Company expects to maintain its research budget at between 12 and 13% of sales. In 2009, R&D outlays will include the ramp-up of the ADNA program and increased spending on the VIDAS® range in France. They will also cover bioTheranostics' expenditures over twelve months. On the other hand, development work on the VIDIA® range will be scaled back.
    - **Royalties from the patent portfolio** rose to €12.3 million, comprising in particular a €3.8 million royalty payment from Becton Dickinson (versus €5.7 million in 2007) and a variety of other non-recurring royalties totaling an aggregate €3 million. The recurring royalty payments for the BOOM® and NASBA® technologies, most of whose patents expire in 2010, amounted to nearly €3 million for the year.
- **Operating income before non-recurring items** rose by nearly 12% to €187 million, representing 16.8% of sales.
- **Operating income** amounted to €186 million, a 24% increase on the €150 million reported in 2007, when it included a €28.5 million provision for closure of the Boxtel plant, partially offset by a €11.4 million reversal of the provision on the D.B.V. dispute. In 2008, the operating income was reduced by the €1.3 million cost of transferring Boxtel's operations to facilities in Grenoble, Marcy l'Etoile and Shanghai, a non-recurring expense that is expected to total about €11 million in 2009.
- **Net financial expense** stood at €3.3 million for year. In 2007, financial expense was offset by the €3.3 million pre-tax capital gain realized on the sale of the OPi shares.
- **Income tax expense** amounted to €51.5 million, or 28.2% of pretax income, versus 35.6% in 2007.

  France's new research tax credit plan, in effect since 2008, reduced tax expense by €7.4 million compared with 2007, reflecting the significant amount of R&D expenditures made by the French sites during the year. To benefit from this favorable environment, in 2009 there will be an increase in research programs conducted in France.

  The year also benefited from nearly €5 million in non-recurring items related to the restructuring of bioMérieux Japan and the favorable outcome of a tax audit in the United States. Excluding these items, the effective tax rate for the year would have been 30.7%. The tax rate was higher in 2007 because the provision for the closure of the Boxtel plant gave rise only to a partial tax savings.
- **Net income** rose by 32.6% to €130 million, or 11.7% of sales. Earnings per share amounted to €3.29, versus €2.48 in 2007.

Number of employees

After taking into account the acquisitions of PML Microbiologicals, AB BIODISK and AviaraDx, as well as the salesforce reorganizations undertaken in the United States and Japan, the Group had a total of 6,140 full-time equivalent **employees** at December 31, 2008. There were 5,771 full-time equivalent employees at December 31, 2007.

Cash flow statement

- **Cash flow from operating activities before cost of net financial debt and income tax** rose by €21 million to €259 million.
  - **Operating working capital requirement** continued to improve to 20.6% of sales from 21.1% in 2007.
  - **Capital expenditure** totaled €92 million, of which €55 million was for industrial investments, compared with, respectively, €90 million and €50 million in 2007. Industrial investments primarily concerned capacity extensions, building development projects and the "Global ERP" project. In addition to this last project, major capital outlays were committed to building construction and development at the Grenoble, Marcy l'Etoile, Saint Louis and Shanghai sites. They will increase consolidated capital expenditure by around €30 million a year in 2009 and 2010.
- **Free cash flow** before acquisitions, divested operations and dividends stood at €100 million for the year, up €16 million on 2007.

  A total of €136 million was spent in 2008 on acquisitions, primarily **AB BIODISK**, **AviaraDx** and **PML Microbiologicals**.

  Dividends of €30 million (€0.76 per share) were paid in June 2008.
- **Net debt** stood at €51 million at December 31, 2008, versus net cash of €15 million a year earlier, and represented 7% of equity.

  bioMérieux has a €260 million syndicated line of credit available until January 2013. At December 31, drawdowns on the facility amounted to €65 million.

DIVIDEND

The Board of Directors will recommend that shareholders at the Annual Meeting on June 11 approve a **dividend** for the year of €0.81 per share, representing a pay out of €32 million in June 2009.

2009 OBJECTIVES

In a deteriorating financial and economic environment, and given the uncertainties concerning instrument sales, particularly in North America, bioMérieux has set an **objective** of achieving like-for-like growth in sales of 5 to 7% in 2009.

It is targeting overall growth in sales of 7 to 9%, at constant exchange rates and including recent business development agreements. This range is in line with the 2012 strategic plan objectives.

In 2009, the Company aims at achieving an operating margin before non-recurring items of about 16%, at constant 2008 exchange rates and excluding the additional costs of closing the Boxtel plant. This target reflects the planned decline in royalty payments and the operating losses forecast for bioTheranostics.

"*In 2008, bioMérieux delivered strong sales growth, while improving its operating margin*," commented Chief Executive Officer Stéphane Bancel*. "In a challenging economic environment, we strengthened our Company by making three strategic acquisitions and investing heavily in R&D and in our manufacturing facilities. More than ever, improving patient care and reducing costs are top healthcare priorities, driving the need for high medical-value tests. With a strong business model and investment capabilities, we confirm the objectives set in our 2012 strategic plan. Our long-term vision remains intact*."

NEXT FINANCIAL PRESS RELEASE

2009 first-quarter sales: April 23, 2009

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 2007 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 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 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. Our 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	**LT Value**
Isabelle Tongio	Nancy Levain
Tel: + 33 (0)4 78 87 22 37	Tel: +33 (0)1 44 50 39 30
investor.relations@eu.biomerieux.com	nancy.levain@ltvalue.com

Media Relations

bioMérieux	**Fleishman Hillard**	**Image Sept**
Koren Wolman-Tardy	Tim Baker	Laurence Heilbronn
Tel: + 33 (0)4 78 87 20 08	Tel: + 1 216 338-8086	Tel: + 33 (0)1 53 70 74 64
media@eu.biomerieux.com	tim.baker@fleishman.com	lheilbronn@image7.fr
		Tiphaine Hecketsweiler
		Tel: + 33 (0)1 53 70 74 59
		thecketsweiler@image7.fr

bioMérieux
CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

In millions of euros	***JAN 08 - DEC 08***	***JAN 07 - DEC 07***	***JAN 06 - DEC 06***
NET SALES	**1 110,5**	**1 062,8**	**1 036,9**
COST OF SALES	-517,5	-497,0	-495,0
GROSS PROFIT	**593,0**	**565,8**	**541,9**
OTHER OPERATING INCOME	12,6	10,6	9,8
SELLING AND MARKETING EXPENSES	-198,9	-189,3	-186,7
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	-87,1	-88,3	-86,0
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES	-132,7	-131,8	-129,6
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	**-418,7**	**-409,4**	**-402,3**
OPERATING INCOME BEFORE NON-RECURRING ITEMS	**186,9**	**167,0**	**149,4**
OTHER NON-RECURRING INCOMES (EXPENSES)	-0,8	-17,1	3,1
OPERATING INCOME	**186,1**	**149,9**	**152,5**
COST OF NET FINANCIAL DEBT	-2,5	0,0	-0,9
OTHER FINANCIAL ITEMS	-0,8	4,7	1,8
INCOME TAX	-51,5	-55,1	-46,6
INVESTMENTS IN ASSOCIATES	-1,3	-1,4	-1,4
NET INCOME OF CONSOLIDATED COMPANIES	**130,0**	**98,1**	**105,4**
ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE MINORITY INTERESTS	0,1	0,1	0,1
ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE PARENT COMPANY	**129,9**	**98,0**	**105,3**
NET INCOME PER SHARE (a)	3,29	2,48	2,67

(a) In the absence of dilutive instruments issued by bioMérieux SA, diluted net income per share is identical to basic net income per share

bioMérieux
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS ***In millions of euros***	**NET** **12/31/2008**	**NET** **12/31/2007**	**NET** **12/31/2006**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
. Intangible assets	78,1	42,8	31,1
. Goodwill	168,0	76,9	74,8
. Property, plant and equipment	300,2	284,3	271,7
. Financial assets	16,6	17,8	14,9
. Investments in associates	2,0	3,1	4,9
. Other non-current assets	26,0	21,7	21,5
. Deferred tax assets	21,7	20,1	24,9
TOTAL	**612,6**	**466,7**	**443,8**
CURRENT ASSETS			
. Inventories and work in progress	156,3	145,8	146,8
. Accounts receivable	315,4	293,6	280,8
. Other operating receivables	28,8	23,8	23,7
. Tax receivable	11,6	10,8	2,5
. Non-operating receivables	11,7	3,2	8,1
. Cash and cash equivalents	52,8	54,5	33,9
TOTAL	**576,6**	**531,7**	**495,8**
TOTAL ASSETS	***1 189,2***	***998,4***	***939,6***

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	**12/31/2008**	**12/31/2007**	**12/31/2006**
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
. Share capital	12,0	12,0	12,0
. Additional paid-in capital	63,7	63,7	63,7
. Retained earnings	517,6	458,9	382,2
. Other comprehensive income	7,1	0,6	0,9
. Translation reserve	-45,6	-32,3	-7,0
. Net income for the year	129,9	98,0	105,3
TOTAL EQUITY BEFORE MINORITY INTERESTS	**684,7**	**600,9**	**557,1**
MINORITY INTERESTS	**3,7**	**0,4**	**0,4**
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	**688,4**	**601,3**	**557,5**
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
. Net financial debt - long-term	78,1	18,2	17,3
. Deferred tax liabilities	25,6	12,8	5,4
. Provisions	34,4	71,4	59,9
TOTAL	**138,1**	**102,4**	**82,6**
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
. Net financial debt - short-term	25,6	21,3	27,1
. Provisions	38,4	7,5	17,0
. Accounts payable	120,2	98,1	95,8
. Other operating liabilities	151,7	140,6	132,3
. Tax liabilities	11,7	12,3	11,0
. Non-operating liabilities	15,1	14,9	16,3
TOTAL	**362,7**	**294,7**	**299,5**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	***1 189,2***	***998,4***	***939,6***

bioMérieux

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

In millions of euros	**jan 08-dec 08 12 months**	**jan 07-dec 07 12 months**	**jan 06-dec 06 12 months**
Net income of consolidated companies	130,0	98,1	105,4
Net depreciation and provisions, and others	72,7	95,2	59,0
(Increase) / Decrease in fair value of derivatives	0,2	-1,1	0,3
Net realized capital gains (losses)	-1,9	-3,5	-6,4
Cash flow from operating activities	**201,0**	**188,7**	**158,3**
Cost of net financial debt	2,5	0,0	0,9
Current income tax expense	56,0	48,9	47,0
Cash flow from operating activities before cost of net financial debt and income tax	**259,5**	**237,6**	**206,2**
Increase in inventories	-7,4	-1,4	-4,5
Increase requirements in accounts receivable	-20,9	-18,2	-21,7
Increase (Decrease) in accounts payable and other operating working capital	24,3	11,2	-2,3
Decrease / (Increase) in operating working capital	**-4,0**	**-8,4**	**-28,5**
Income tax paid	-57,6	-56,3	-53,5
Other	3,4	0,4	3,2
(Increase) / Decrease in non-current assets	-3,4	-2,3	-1,9
Decrease / (Increase) in working capital requirements	**-61,6**	**-66,6**	**-80,7**
Net cash flow from operations	**197,9**	**171,0**	**125,5**
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-91,8	-89,7	-88,6
Proceeds on fixed asset disposals	7,5	8,0	8,0
Purchase of financial assets / Disposals of financial assets	-0,3	-1,1	0,8
Net cash from the sale of Hemostasis line of business	1,9	2,3	33,7
Impact of changes in the scope of consolidation	-130,6	-21,6	-18,4
Other investing cash flows	-3,2	-1,3	
Net cash flow from (used in) investment activities	**-216,5**	**-103,4**	**-64,5**
Purchases and proceeds of treasury stocks	-15,3	-5,0	-3,6
Dividends to bioMérieux SA shareholders	-29,8	-29,9	-18,1
Minority interests in capital increase	2,4		
Cost of net financial debt	-2,5	0,0	-0,9
Change in confirmed financial debt	61,5	2,5	-0,9
Net cash flow from (used in) financing activities	**16,3**	**-32,4**	**-23,5**
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**-2,3**	**35,2**	**37,5**
ANALYSIS OF NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
Net cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	36,0	8,0	-25,1
Impact of currency changes on net cash and cash equivalents	-2,2	-7,2	-4,4
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	**-2,3**	**35,2**	**37,5**
Net cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**31,5**	**36,0**	**8,0**