



bioMérieux: Enhancing the Productivity of Microbiology Laboratories with the LeanSigma® Method

Marcy l'Etoile (France), May 15, 2009 – bioMérieux, a world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, is building upon its Full Microbiology Lab Automation™ (FMLA) concept by offering a new tool to its customers, LeanSigma® - today's most recognized process and flow improvement methodology.

bioMérieux introduced the FMLA™ concept in 2008 with the goal of providing clinicians with more rapid and standardized results to allow them to prescribe the right treatment to their patients in the shortest time possible. The company also launched two new platforms to enhance lab automation, PREVI Isola™, a pre-poured media stainer designed to automate routine agar plate processing, and PREVI™ Color Gram, an automated staining system for all types of specimens. With six microbiology systems, bioMérieux has the broadest range available on the market today.

bioMérieux is expanding the FMLA concept and proposing to have its customers' facilities receive an assessment using LeanSigma methods to help them optimize their laboratory workflow and reduce the time to results. With LeanSigma, the company is giving customers access to the very latest advances in productivity improvement tools. bioMérieux is convinced that this approach, which was first used at large manufacturing sites, can also be applied in the microbiology laboratory environment because these labs are often confronted with the same issues of process optimization and cost control as industrial sites.

Thierry Bernard, Corporate Vice President of Commercial Operations at bioMérieux, explains that "bioMérieux wants to bring the latest improvement tools used by large companies to microbiology laboratories. As part of our FMLA strategy, we are enhancing the services we provide to our customers, helping them to achieve substantial productivity gains."

LeanSigma combines Lean and Six Sigma® methods into a single, coordinated process. The audit will make it possible to pinpoint efficiency losses in areas such as the transfer of a sample from one instrument to another, the time it takes for a technician or an instrument to complete a task, certain tools and procedures, or even laboratory ergonomics. Improvement actions can then be recommended to enhance both laboratory reaction times as well as workflow.

This new concept will be unveiled at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) held in Helsinki (Finland), May 16-19, 2009. Consultants from Guidon Performance Solutions will present the LeanSigma process at the bioMérieux booth there. A U.S. company with offices worldwide, Guidon pioneered this unique improvement tool in healthcare.

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 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) that 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 (Code: BIM – Code ISIN: FR0010096479). Other information can be found at www.biomerieux.com.

About Guidon

Guidon Performance Solutions is a global leader in applying Lean Thinking and Six Sigma within financial services, healthcare, government, retail, technology and other service organizations. The company provides strategic direction and hands-on implementation to guide cultural and organizational transformation. Guidon pioneered the application of LeanSigma in service and government organizations and has helped clients achieve unprecedented advantages through operations excellence, cultural transformation and strategic execution. Guidon is a TBM Consulting Group Company. For more information about Guidon, please visit www.guidonps.com.

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