



## **bioMérieux acquires an option to license Applied NeuroSolutions' Technology to diagnose Alzheimer's disease**

**Agreement contemplates technology assessment, worldwide licensing, regulatory filing, and marketing on a non-exclusive basis.**

*Marcy L'Etoile, France, December 15th, 2004-- bioMérieux SA (Euronext : FR0010096479 – BIM), announces today that it signed a non-exclusive agreement with Applied Neurosolutions granting bioMérieux SA an option to assess Applied Neurosolutions' technology for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.*

The option and licensing agreement, including all milestones, can be worth in excess of \$5 million, plus substantial royalties. Under terms of the non-exclusive agreement announced today, which includes an upfront payment, potential milestones, and potential substantial royalties, bioMérieux would be financially responsible for obtaining regulatory approvals to develop and sell diagnostic tests for Alzheimer's disease using the Applied Neurosolutions' technology.

Alzheimer disease is a progressive brain disorder that gradually destroys a person's memory and ability to learn, reason, make judgments, communicate and carry out daily activities. Four millions and a half of Americans currently carry Alzheimer's disease, a figure which is comparable in other developed countries and that is expected to dramatically increase with more people ageing. There are currently no FDA-approved diagnostic tests for Alzheimer's disease.

According to Dr Christophe Mérieux, Senior Corporate Vice President R&D and Medical Affairs for bioMérieux, “*Today’s option agreement represents a strategic milestone towards our goal of evaluating best opportunities to penetrate the field of neuro-degenerative diseases with innovative biological tests. We will be evaluating Applied NeuroSolutions’ technology in the context of our other proprietary technologies in order to design the best solutions for Alzheimer’s disease diagnostics*”.

## **About bioMérieux**

bioMérieux is a leading international diagnostics group that specialises in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics for clinical and industrial applications.

In 2003, its sales reached 915 million euros and eighty two percent of the company’s sales are international. The company is present in more than 130 countries through 33 subsidiaries and a large network of distributors, which positions the company well to benefit from the growth potential of the *in vitro* diagnostics market. Some important drivers that underpin this growth are aging populations and age-related illness, illnesses related to life-style and eating habits, the emerging new pathogens, the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, the fight against bio-terrorism, the recognition of the importance of the quality of food products, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

bioMérieux is listed on the Premier Marché of Euronext, Paris (FR0010096479 – BIM).

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