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Silliker Acquires Biofortis, A French Contract Research Organization Specialized in Nutrition Clinical Studies

Homewood, IL – June 24, 2009 – Silliker, the world leader in the field of food safety and quality services and part of the Mérieux Alliance group of companies, announced today that it has acquired 100% of Biofortis.

Biofortis, a French pioneer in nutrition clinical studies, was founded by Murielle Cazaubiel in 2002. This innovative Contract Research Organization (CRO) offers two types of specialized services to clients: **managing clinical trials to obtain scientific proof of claims for food and pharmaceutical products, health ingredients, or additives, and developing specific biological markers.**

Through its "Central Lab" which specializes in metabolism disorders, Biofortis possesses the capabilities to integrate the most recent biomarkers into nutrition clinical studies.

This acquisition is a key milestone for Silliker in its objective to enhance unique research services to food and ingredients manufacturers worldwide. One major area of innovation and development for these companies is related to their ability to provide healthier food with proven health benefits. At the same time, regulations are tightening and consumers are becoming more demanding. As a result of these tendencies, food companies need additional expertise and support to accelerate the development and commercialization of new products and to prove the effectiveness of their products.

"As a leader in its field and with the continued leadership of Murielle Cazaubiel, Biofortis will complete and reinforce Silliker capabilities on a worldwide basis to support ingredients and food manufacturers throughout the product development process," said Philippe Sans, CEO of Silliker.

"Being part of Silliker, Biofortis will be able to better leverage its expertise and thus accelerate its domestic and international development," said Murielle Cazaubiel, founder of Biofortis.

About Silliker

With over 40 years of experience and part of the Mérieux Alliance group of companies, Silliker provides consulting, testing, auditing, research and training services that help ensure food safety and nutrition worldwide. Silliker is recognized for its expertise in providing recommendations that help identify operational problems, anticipate areas of concern, and institute practical controls associated with food safety and quality risks. To learn more about our expert services, please log on to www.silliker.com

About Biofortis

Biofortis is a leading Contract Research Organization (CRO) performing nutritional human clinical studies. It provides clients with the ability to obtain scientific proof of claims for food and pharmaceutical products, health ingredients, or additives, and developing specific biological markers. A complete service offering ranges from developing objectives to the final clinical study report. Closely connected to the human health services of the Nantes University Hospital, FR, the Biofortis team performs clinical trial analyses under the highest quality standards. To learn more about Biofortis, please log on to www.biofortis.eu.