

SANOFI-AVENTIS

Paris, August 23, 2004

Mandatory Publication pursuant to Sections 35 sub-sec. 1, 10 sub-sec. 3 Securities Acquisition and Takeover Act (WpÜG) – Mandatory Offer

Offeror:

Sanofi-Aventis
174 avenue de France
75013 Paris
France
ISIN FR 0000120578 (WKN 920 657)

Target:

Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft
Industriepark Hoechst, Gebäude K 701
Brüningstraße 50
65926 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
ISIN DE 0005758007 (WKN 575 800)

Other Companies directly affected by the Mandatory Offer:

Aventis
Cedex 9
67917 Strasbourg
France
ISIN FR 0000130460 (WKN 925 700)

Sanofi-Aventis, a French stock corporation (*société anonyme*), hereby announces pursuant to Sections 35 sub-sec. 1, 10 sub-sec. 3 Securities Acquisition and Take-over Act (“WpÜG”) that by acquisition of the majority of the shares and voting rights of Aventis, a French stock corporation (*société anonyme*), on 20 August 2004, it gained indirect control in the meaning of Section 29 sub-sec. 2 WpÜG over Aventis’ subsidiary Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft (ISIN DE 0005758007, WKN 575 800).

Aventis holds a total of 548,451,852 of the 559,153,690 shares of Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft. This represents 98.09% of the registered share capital and the voting rights in Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft.

Following the acquisition of the majority participation in Aventis these voting rights in Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft are now attributed to Sanofi-Aventis pursuant to Section 30 sub-sec. 1 sentence 1 no. 1 WpÜG.

Through the acquisition of the majority participation in Aventis by Sanofi-Aventis on 20 August 2004, Total, a French stock corporation (*société anonyme*), 2 place de la Coupole, 92078 Paris La Défense Cedex, France, L'Oréal, a French stock corporation (*société anonyme*), 14 rue Royale, 75008 Paris, France, Téthys SAS, a French partnership limited by shares (*société par actions simplifiée*), 14 rue Royale, 75008 Paris, France, Ms Liliane Bettencourt, Mr André Bettencourt, Ms Françoise Bettencourt Meyers, Mr Jean-Pierre Meyers (each of these individual shareholders with address at 14 rue Royale, 75008 Paris, France), and Nestlé S.A., a Swiss stock corporation (*société anonyme*), avenue Nestlé 55 CH-1800 Vevey, Switzerland, also gained indirect control in the meaning of Section 29 sub-sec. 2 WpÜG over Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft. The 548,451,852 shares or 98.09% of the voting rights in Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft held by Aventis are also attributed to each of Total, L'Oréal, Téthys SAS, Ms Liliane Bettencourt, Mr André Bettencourt, Ms Françoise Bettencourt Meyers, Mr Jean-Pierre Meyers and Nestlé S.A. pursuant to Section 30 sub-sec. 1 sentence 1 no. 1 WpÜG.

Satisfying its obligations and the obligations of Total, L'Oréal, Téthys SAS, Ms Liliane Bettencourt, Mr André Bettencourt, Ms Françoise Bettencourt Meyers, Mr Jean-Pierre Meyers and Nestlé S.A. resulting from Section 35 WpÜG, Sanofi-Aventis will make a mandatory offer to the outside shareholders of Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft.

Subsequent to the approval by the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (*Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht*) the offer document for the mandatory offer will be published pursuant to Sections 35 sub-sec. 2, 14 sub-sec. 3 sentence 1 no. 1 WpÜG on the Internet at

<http://www.sanofi-aventis.com>

and by public announcement of its free of charge availability.

Sanofi-Aventis reserves the right to purchase shares in Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft outside the mandatory offer as permitted under German law, provided such purchases shall not violate any applicable securities laws of any other jurisdiction. The offer document and announcements posted on the internet at <http://www.sanofi-aventis.com> will contain further information about any such purchases outside the mandatory offer.

This announcement is neither an offer to purchase nor a solicitation of an offer to sell securities of Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft. The offer will be contained in the offer document which will contain additional important information.

This announcement contains forward looking statements, which may be identified, inter alia, by words such as "intends", "anticipates", "will" or words of similar meaning. These statements are based on the current expectations of Sanofi-Aventis and are inherently subject to uncertainties and changes in circumstances, many of which are outside Sanofi-Aventis' control. Actual events could differ materially from those described in the forward looking statements. Except as required by applicable law, Sanofi-Aventis does not undertake any obligation to update the forward-looking statements to reflect actual results, or any change in events, assumptions or other factors.

This announcement was submitted to the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (*Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht; BaFin*) and to the French Authority for Financial Markets (*Autorité des Marchés Financiers; AMF*) prior to the publication of this announcement

pursuant to Sections 35 sub-sec. 1, 10 sub-sec. 4 WpÜG and article 7 of the provision no. 2002-04 of the COB (Commission des opérations de bourse), respectively.

23 August 2004

Sanofi-Aventis (for itself and for Total, L'Oréal, Téthys SAS, Ms Liliane Bettencourt, Mr André Bettencourt, Ms Françoise Bettencourt Meyers, Mr Jean-Pierre Meyers and Nestlé S.A.)

Listings of Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft, Sanofi-Aventis and Aventis in the Federal Republic of Germany:

Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft: Official Market in Frankfurt am Main, Over-The-Counter in Berlin-Bremen, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Hanover, Munich and Stuttgart.

Sanofi-Aventis: Over-The-Counter in Berlin-Bremen, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt am Main, Hamburg, Hanover, Munich and Stuttgart.

Aventis: Official Market in Frankfurt am Main, Over-The-Counter in Berlin-Bremen, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Hanover, Munich and Stuttgart.

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