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NEWS RELEASE

[LOGO] BD

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BD REPORTS RESULTS FOR FISCAL FIRST QUARTER;  
REVENUES INCREASE 12 PERCENT

Franklin Lakes, NJ (January 20, 2000) - BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) (NYSE:BDX) announced today results for its fiscal first quarter, which ended December 31, 1999. Reported revenues for the quarter increased by 12 percent from the first quarter of fiscal 1999 to \$859 million. Diluted earnings per share were \$.29, unchanged from a year ago when earnings benefited from a favorable tax judgment in Brazil which increased earnings per share by \$.03. Year-to-year changes in currency exchange rates reduced reported revenues for the current year's first quarter by an estimated \$11 million and earnings per share by \$.01.

By business segment, Medical Systems revenues grew 9 percent to \$463 million compared with \$425 million in last year's first quarter. These revenues reflected good growth in most product areas, including the company's advanced protection devices.

Revenues for the Biosciences segment grew 18 percent over a year ago to \$264 million for the quarter. Recent acquisitions, including Clontech which was acquired in late fiscal 1999, added approximately \$20 million to Biosciences revenues for the quarter. The company also said that its BDProbeTec ET instrument, which was launched in the U.S. late in the quarter, is being very well received by the bioscience marketplace.

Revenues of the Preanalytical Solutions segment increased to \$132 million, 10 percent higher than the prior fiscal year's \$121 million. The segment's results also reflected strong sales in advanced protection devices in the United States.

By geographic area, revenues outside the United States were \$433 million, an 11 percent increase. Revenues inside the United States were \$426 million, an increase of 13 percent, with good performance by all segments.

Gross profit margin for the quarter declined to 47.6 percent partially due to unfavorable mix of sales and the scale up of production of advanced protection devices. The Company also noted gross profit margins for the remainder of the year are expected to show improvement in comparison to the first quarter.

Selling and administrative expenses were \$234 million, or 27.2 percent of revenues, as compared to 29 percent of revenues last year, reflecting actions taken in recent quarters to control expenses.

Edward J. Ludwig, president and chief executive officer, said: "We are pleased with our first quarter's results, although we believe they included a modest one-time benefit from Y2K-related purchases. We are confident that we will report record earnings for the year and that sales growth will continue to show acceleration from recent years."

This press release may contain certain forward looking statements (as defined under Federal securities laws) regarding the company's performance, including future revenues, products and income, or events and developments that the company expects to occur or anticipates occurring in the future. All such statements are based upon current expectations of the company and involve a number of business risks and uncertainties. Actual results could vary materially from anticipated results described in any forward-looking statement. Factors that could cause actual results to vary materially from any forward-looking statement include, but are not limited to, competitive factors, changes in regional, national or foreign economic conditions, changes in interest or foreign currency exchange rates, delays in product introductions, Year 2000 issues, and changes in health care or other governmental regulation, as well as other factors discussed herein and in the company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

- Selected Financial Schedules Follow -

BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY  
CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited; Amounts in thousands, except per-share data)

	Three Months Ended December 31,		
	1999	1998	%Change
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>
REVENUES	\$ 859,164	\$ 768,966	11.7
Cost of products sold	449,951	385,710	16.7
Selling and administrative	233,838	223,116	4.8
Research and development	53,743	49,310	9.0
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS AND EXPENSES	737,532	658,136	12.1
OPERATING INCOME	121,632	110,830	9.7
Interest expense, net	(21,557)	(17,871)	20.6
Other income, net	1,674	1,025	63.3
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	101,749	93,984	8.3
Income tax provision	26,455	17,826	48.4
NET INCOME	\$ 75,294	\$ 76,158	(1.1)
EARNINGS PER SHARE			
Basic	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30	-
Diluted	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.29	-
AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING			
Basic	251,328	248,320	
Diluted	262,593	265,419	

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BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY  
SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE INFORMATION  
(Unaudited; Amounts in thousands)

	Three Months Ended December 31,		
	1999	1998	%Change
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>
MEDICAL SYSTEMS			
United States	\$ 206,622	\$ 192,625	7.3
International	255,984	232,540	10.1
TOTAL	\$ 462,606	\$ 425,165	8.8
BIOSCIENCES			
United States	\$ 150,766	\$ 123,277	22.3
International	113,650	100,002	13.6
TOTAL	\$ 264,416	\$ 223,279	18.4
PREANALYTICAL SOLUTIONS			

United States	\$	69,071	\$	63,331	9.1
International		63,071		57,191	10.3
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TOTAL	\$	132,142	\$	120,522	9.6
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TOTAL REVENUES

United States	\$	426,459	\$	379,233	12.5
International		432,705		389,733	11.0
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TOTAL	\$	859,164	\$	768,966	11.7
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BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY  
SELECTED FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
(Unaudited; Amounts in thousands)

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CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS	December 31, 1999		September 30, 1999	
<S>	<C>		<C>	
Cash & equivalents	\$	70,936	\$	59,932
Trade receivables, net		790,952		812,544
Inventories		666,396		642,533
Other		174,355		168,716
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TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,702,639		1,683,725
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Property, plant & equipment, net		1,442,729		1,431,149
Other		1,336,730		1,322,084
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$	4,482,098	\$	4,436,958
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Current Liabilities	\$	1,345,119	\$	1,329,322
Long-term Liabilities		1,331,764		1,338,948
Equity		1,805,215		1,768,688
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$	4,482,098	\$	4,436,958
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SELECTED CASH FLOW INFORMATION	Three Months Ended December 31,			
<S>	<C>	<C>		
Depreciation & amortization	\$	72,440	\$	62,688
Cash flow from operating activities		120,869		84,929
Capital expenditures		(66,697)		(61,778)
Acquisitions of businesses		-		(41,706)
Cash flow from investing activities		(94,846)		(115,784)
Cash flow from financing activities		(15,019)		76,182
Net Change in Cash & Equivalents		11,004		45,327
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