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April 21, 1999

BECTON DICKINSON REPORTS 18 PERCENT REVENUE INCREASE
FOR FISCAL SECOND QUARTER

Franklin Lakes, NJ (April 21, 1999) - Becton Dickinson and Company (NYSE:BDX) announced today results for its fiscal second quarter, which ended March 31, 1999. Diluted earnings per share were \$.34 including a \$.06 per share charge for in-process research and development related to the company's recent acquisition of Biometric Imaging, Inc. Excluding the one-time charge, earnings per share were \$.40, an increase of 14 percent over last year's \$.35.

Reported revenues for the quarter increased by 18 percent from the second quarter of fiscal 1998 to \$874 million. Recent acquisitions contributed to this growth. Excluding the estimated impact of foreign currency translation, revenue growth would have been approximately 17 percent.

By business segment, medical supplies and devices revenues grew 26 percent to \$484 million compared with \$384 million in last year's second quarter. These revenues reflected strong growth from the company's infusion therapy business, which included \$45 million from the April 1998 acquisition of the medical device business (MDD) of the BOC Group. This segment's performance also reflects significant growth in diabetes health care revenues primarily due to unusually low revenues in the prior year's second quarter after a January 1998 price increase.

Diagnostic systems revenues increased to \$390 million, a 10 percent increase over \$355 million in last year's second quarter. Included in these results were strong performances from the flow cytometry, sample collection and tissue culture businesses.

By geographic area, revenues in the United States were \$438 million, a 9 percent increase over the prior year. Revenues outside the United States were \$436 million, a 30 percent increase over last year's \$336 million. The MDD acquisition contributed to the strong revenue growth outside the United States.

Six-Month Results

For the six-month period ended March 31, 1999, revenues were \$1.643 billion, a 14 percent increase over \$1.440 billion a year ago. As previously noted, recent acquisitions contributed to revenue growth. Favorable foreign currency translation added an estimated \$8 million in revenues for the six-month period. Diluted earnings per share were \$.63 including the in-process research and development charge of \$.06. Medical supplies and devices revenues for the six-month period were \$909 million, while revenues from diagnostic systems totaled \$734 million.

Clateo Castellini, chairman, president and chief executive officer, said, "We are pleased that we are seeing the results from our focus on revenue growth, and we expect this to continue in the second half of the year."

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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 or 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

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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 -

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BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY
 SELECTED FINANCIAL SCHEDULES
 Amounts in thousands, except per-share data

INCOME STATEMENTS	Three Months Ended March 31,		
	1999	1998	% Change
REVENUES	\$873,964	\$738,433	18.4
Cost of products sold	429,260	364,080	17.9
Selling and administrative	233,004	186,017	25.3
Research and development	67,251	43,796	53.6
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS AND EXPENSES	729,515	593,893	22.8
OPERATING INCOME	144,449	144,540	(0.1)
Interest expense, net	(18,758)	(11,427)	64.2
Other income (expense), net	1,460	(3,064)	NM
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	127,151	130,049	(2.2)
Income tax provision	37,037	37,714	(1.8)
NET INCOME	\$ 90,114	\$ 92,335	(2.4)
EARNINGS PER SHARE			
Basic	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.37	(2.7)
Diluted	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.35	(2.9)
AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING			
Basic	249,276	244,952	
Diluted	264,814	260,678	

NM - Not Meaningful

SUMMARY OF REVENUES	Three Months Ended March 31,		
	1999	1998	% Change
BY BUSINESS SEGMENT			
Medical Supplies and Devices	\$483,779	\$383,685	26.1
Diagnostic Systems	390,185	354,748	10.0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$873,964	\$738,433	18.4
BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA			
United States	\$438,118	\$402,162	8.9
International	435,846	336,271	29.6
TOTAL REVENUES	\$873,964	\$738,433	18.4

BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY
 SELECTED FINANCIAL SCHEDULES
 Amounts in thousands, except per-share data

INCOME STATEMENTS	Six Months Ended March 31,		
	1999	1998	% Change
REVENUES	\$1,642,930	\$1,440,073	14.1

Cost of products sold	814,970	718,883	13.4
Selling and administrative	456,120	385,157	18.4
Research and development	116,561	88,426	31.8

TOTAL OPERATING COSTS AND EXPENSES	1,387,651	1,192,466	16.4

OPERATING INCOME	255,279	247,607	3.1
Interest expense, net	(36,629)	(21,668)	69.0
Other income (expense), net	2,485	(5,297)	NM

INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	221,135	220,642	0.2
Income tax provision	54,863	63,986	(14.3)

NET INCOME	\$ 166,272	\$ 156,656	6.1

EARNINGS PER SHARE			
Basic	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.63	4.8
Diluted	\$ 0.63	\$ 0.60	5.0

AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING			
Basic	248,793	244,282	
Diluted	265,314	259,160	

NM - Not Meaningful

SUMMARY OF REVENUES	1999	Six Months Ended March 31,	
		1998	% Change

BY BUSINESS SEGMENT			
Medical Supplies and Devices	\$ 908,944	\$ 756,250	20.2
Diagnostic Systems	733,986	683,823	7.3

TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,642,930	\$1,440,073	14.1

BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA			
United States	\$ 817,351	\$ 790,747	3.4
International	825,579	649,326	27.1

TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,642,930	\$1,440,073	14.1
