

BECTON DICKINSON REPORTS THIRD QUARTER RESULTS;
CHARGES REDUCE NET INCOME BY \$69 MILLION

Franklin Lakes, NJ (July 21, 1999) - Becton Dickinson and Company (NYSE: BDX) announced today results for its fiscal third quarter ended June 30, 1999, which included the previously announced effects of restructuring and other charges totaling \$102 million pre-tax, or \$69 million after-tax. Excluding these charges, diluted earnings per share were \$.38. Results for the third quarter of 1998, excluding charges of \$106 million after-tax, were \$.37 per share. Reported earnings per share for the current quarter were \$.12.

Revenues for the quarter were \$873 million, a five percent increase from last year's \$834 million.

Charges Reduce Reported E.P.S.

As the company indicated in April, results for the quarter would include expenses related to a voluntary retirement program and other charges. These other charges relate to exiting certain product lines, primarily in the home health care business and other activities, which reflect the company's decision to discontinue its efforts to introduce a stand-alone blood glucose monitoring product this year. These other charges also include write-downs associated with impaired assets. Of the total restructuring and other charges of \$102 million pre-tax for the quarter, approximately \$27 million were reported in cost of products sold to reflect the write-off of inventories for the exited product lines. The effect of these charges on diluted earnings per share was \$.26.

Helping All People Live Healthy Lives

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Segment and Geographic Revenues

By business segment, medical supplies and devices revenues for the quarter were \$495 million, a four percent increase from last year's \$474 million. Particularly strong performance was reported by the company's infusion therapy and pre-fillable syringe businesses.

Diagnostic systems revenues were \$378 million for the quarter, an increase of five percent over last year's \$359 million. Especially strong results were reported for the company's flow cytometry business.

On a geographic basis, revenues in the United States were \$450 million for the quarter, a two percent increase from last year's \$442 million. Revenues from non-U.S. markets were \$423 million compared with \$392 million a year ago, or an increase of eight percent.

Nine Months Results

For the nine months ended June 30, 1999, revenues increased 11 percent to \$2.516 billion, compared with \$2.274 billion last year. Net income for the nine months was \$199 million or \$.75 per diluted share, including the restructuring and other charges in the current quarter.

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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 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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STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS	Three Months Ended June 30,		% Change
	1999	1998	
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>
REVENUES	\$873,002	\$833,561	4.7
Cost of products sold	461,323	419,007	10.1
Selling and administrative	231,924	234,418	(1.1)
Research and development	50,694	80,859	(37.3)
Special charges	75,553	90,945	NM
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS AND EXPENSES	819,494	825,229	(0.7)
OPERATING INCOME	53,508	8,332	NM
Interest expense, net	(16,877)	(17,526)	(3.7)
Other expense, net	(1,267)	(1,815)	(30.2)
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES	35,364	(11,009)	NM
Income tax provision (benefit)	2,240	(1,024)	NM
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 33,124	\$ (9,985)	NM
EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE			
Basic	\$0.13	\$ (0.04)	NM
Diluted	\$0.12	\$ (0.04)	NM
AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING			
Basic	250,075	246,604	
Diluted	265,072	246,604	

NM - Not Meaningful

SUMMARY OF REVENUES	Three Months Ended June 30,		% Change
	1999	1998	
BY BUSINESS SEGMENT			
Medical Supplies and Devices	\$495,135	\$474,351	4.4
Diagnostic Systems	377,867	359,210	5.2
TOTAL REVENUES	\$873,002	\$833,561	4.7
BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA			
United States	\$449,616	\$441,662	1.8
International	423,386	391,899	8.0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$873,002	\$833,561	4.7

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BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY
SELECTED FINANCIAL SCHEDULES
Amounts in thousands, except per-share data
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STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS	Nine Months Ended June 30,		% Change
	1999	1998	
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>
REVENUES	\$2,515,932	\$2,273,634	10.7

Cost of products sold	1,276,293	1,137,890	12.2
Selling and administrative	688,044	619,575	11.1
Research and development	167,255	169,285	(1.2)
Special charges	75,553	90,945	NM

TOTAL OPERATING COSTS AND EXPENSES	2,207,145	2,017,695	9.4

OPERATING INCOME	308,787	255,939	20.6
Interest expense, net	(53,506)	(39,194)	36.5
Other income (expense), net	1,218	(7,112)	NM

INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	256,499	209,633	22.4
Income tax provision	57,103	62,962	(9.3)

NET INCOME	\$ 199,396	\$ 146,671	35.9

EARNINGS PER SHARE			
Basic	\$0.79	\$0.59	33.9
Diluted	\$0.75	\$0.56	33.9

AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING			
Basic	249,213	245,054	
Diluted	265,335	260,684	

NM - Not Meaningful

SUMMARY OF REVENUES	Nine Months Ended June 30,		
	1999	1998	% Change

BY BUSINESS SEGMENT			
Medical Supplies and Devices	\$1,404,078	\$1,230,601	14.1
Diagnostic Systems	1,111,854	1,043,033	6.6

TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,515,932	\$2,273,634	10.7

BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA			
United States	\$1,266,967	\$1,232,409	2.8
International	1,248,965	1,041,225	20.0

TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,515,932	\$2,273,634	10.7

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