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News Release

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Merck KGaA Acquires Bio-Fyt Pharma in Belgium

- **Acquisition puts Merck in the top five in the Belgian OTC market**

Darmstadt, December 2, 2008 – Merck KGaA announced today that it has acquired Bio-Fyt Pharma NV in order to bring critical mass to its Merck Consumer Health Care business in Belgium and to expand its self-medication product portfolio in that market.

The privately held Brussels-based company was founded in 1997 and had sales of €8.6 million in 2007. Bio-Fyt is active in the development, marketing and selling of mobility, women's health and everyday health-protection products. Most of its products hold a leading market position in their segment, offering high brand awareness and recognition among pharmacists and general practitioners.

"Bio-Fyt's product range is a good fit with Merck's existing CHC health themes and positions Merck among the top five players in the Belgian OTC market," said Peter Shotter, President of Merck's Consumer Health Care division. "This purchase is in line with our successful CHC business model of focusing on selected health themes and building brand leaders."

The activities of Bio-Fyt will be integrated into Merck's CHC organization in Belgium, resulting in a broadened product portfolio and expanded customer coverage.

Merck is a global pharmaceutical and chemical company with total revenues of € 7.1 billion in 2007, a history that began in 1668, and a future shaped by 32,458 employees in 59 countries. Its success is characterized by innovations from entrepreneurial employees. Merck's operating activities come under the umbrella of Merck KGaA, in which the Merck family holds an approximately 70% interest and free shareholders own the remaining approximately 30%. In 1917 the U.S. subsidiary Merck & Co. was expropriated and has been an independent company ever since.

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