



Press release

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iXEN, Euromezzanine and Natixis Investissement acquire the Ceva SantéGroup alongside the management team

iXEN, Euromezzanine and Natixis Investissement have agreed to acquire Ceva SantéAnimale, a veterinary pharmaceuticals laboratory, in association with the management team.

Ceva SantéAnimale is the world's tenth largest veterinary pharmaceuticals laboratory. In the last four years, Ceva's sales have grown by almost 60% to an estimated €340 million in 2007, while EBITDA has doubled over the same period. This exceptional performance is attributable to strong organic growth, driven mainly by an ambitious research & development program and substantial ongoing investment, particularly in the biology and pet treatments businesses. Ceva SantéAnimale has also pursued a dynamic build-up strategy during this period. It has made six acquisitions since 2003 and gained a foothold in the US market with its acquisition of Biomune in 2005.

Philippe du Mesnil, Chairman and CEO of Ceva SantéAnimale, commented: "Ceva SantéAnimale has grown rapidly and is now set to continue on its path as an independent company, with the goal of becoming a top-tier global player in the animal health industry. Today, the group's executives, managers and employees in thirty-seven subsidiaries across all five continents are taking their future firmly in their own hands by investing substantially to acquire control of their company, supported by iXEN, Euromezzanine and Natixis Investissement. Together, we are committed to a seven-year growth plan that aims to create sustainable, shared value."

About Ceva SantéAnimale

Ceva SantéAnimale (Libourne, France) is the world's tenth largest veterinary pharmaceuticals laboratory with recognized expertise in two areas of animal health, pharmaceuticals and biology for both livestock and pets.

The Ceva group has operations in 144 countries and employs 1,760 people across its sales and distribution networks, its 37 subsidiaries, 13 production plants and four R&D centers. Its recent acquisitions, especially US laboratory Biomune, which specializes in poultry vaccines, have strengthened the group's international operations.

Consolidated sales totaled €301.1 million in 2006, an increase of 11.5% over 2005 (5.8% on a comparable basis), ranking the Ceva group tenth in its sector on sales and third on world growth.

The Ceva group aims to become a top-tier global player in animal health by 2010, underpinned by heavy investment in research and development (up 17.1% in 2006) and an excellent commercial performance in Europe, North America and International.