

AVENTIS
Form 425
February 17, 2004

Edgar Filing: AVENTIS - Form 425

Filed by Sanofi-Synthélabo
Pursuant to Rule 165 and Rule 425(a) under the United States Securities Act of 1933,
as amended, and deemed filed pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b)(2) of the
United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended

Subject Company: Aventis
Commission File No. 001-10378
Date: February 17, 2004

On February 16, 2004, Sanofi-Synthelabo issued the following press release.

In connection with the proposed acquisition of Aventis, Sanofi-Synthélabo has filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), a registration statement on Form F-4 (File no: 333-112314), which includes a preliminary prospectus and related exchange offer materials, to register the Sanofi-Synthélabo ordinary shares (including Sanofi-Synthélabo ordinary shares represented by Sanofi-Synthélabo ADSs) to be issued in exchange for Aventis ordinary shares held by holders located in the United States and for Aventis ADSs held by holders wherever located. At the appropriate time, Sanofi-Synthélabo will file a Statement on Schedule TO with the SEC. **Investors and holders of Aventis securities are strongly advised to read the registration statement and the preliminary prospectus, the related exchange offer materials and the final prospectus and the Statement on Schedule TO (when available), and any other relevant documents filed with the SEC, as well as any amendments and supplements to those documents, because they will contain important information.** Investors and holders of Aventis securities may obtain free copies of the registration statement, the preliminary prospectus and related exchange offer materials, and the final prospectus and Statement on Schedule TO (when available), as well as other relevant documents filed with the SEC, at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov and will receive information at the appropriate time on how to obtain transaction-related documents for free from Sanofi-Synthélabo or its duly designated agent.

* * * *

Relations Investisseurs

Paris, le 16 février 2004

EXCELLENTE PERFORMANCES 2003

Ø AUGMENTATION DE L'ACTIVITE : +15,6% A DONNEES COMPARABLES

Ø CROISSANCE DU BNPA* 2003 : + 21,5%

Ø RESULTATS DE R&D TRES FAVORABLES

**Bénéfice net par action avant éléments exceptionnels et amortissement des écarts d'acquisition*

EXERCICE 2003

Ø Forte croissance de l'activité :

Chiffre d'affaires consolidé : 8 048 millions d'euros, +15,6% à données comparables + 8,1% à données publiées

Ventes développées¹ : +20,4% (à données comparables) à 10 560 millions d'euros

Ø Amélioration de 0,8 point du taux de marge brute à 82,3% (+ 2 points à taux de change 2002).

Ø Augmentation de +8,0% de l'effort de R&D (+ 14,7% à taux de change 2002).

Ø Croissance du résultat opérationnel de +17,6% (+34,4% à taux de change 2002).