

Contact: Contact: U.S. – Jessica Sawyer-Lueck, 708/ 957 7878; Europe – Pamela Vennin, +33 4 72 38 15 33

Silliker initiates presence in Brazil, investing in BioAgri Brazil’s leading research laboratory in environmental, pharmaceutical, chemistry analysis and food technology

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Homewood, IL, May 23rd, 2008 – Silliker, the world leader in the field of agri-food safety and quality services, announced today that it has invested in the Brazilian company, BioAgri. BioAgri is the largest private group of laboratories in Latin America solely dedicated to analytical services. The company specializes in environmental, chemistry, agro-chemical, pharmaceutical, household products analysis as well as food technology.

Founded in 1990 by Dr. Alvaro Vargas, Ph.D in Soil Microbiology, BIOAGRI currently employs 530 employees. They are headquartered in Piracicaba with 6 branches in Brazil. The agro-chemical and pharmaceutical divisions have offices in the U.S.A. and in Switzerland.

Under terms of the investment, Dr. Alvaro Vargas and the rest of his management team will continue in their roles of President and Director and members of the Board respectively.

This investment will enable Silliker to develop its international network, positioning itself on a new continent and offering complimentary services under the BioAgri banner. BioAgri will benefit from the Silliker international network and expertise focused on the development of BIOAGRI’s food activity.

“This investment reflects our strategic ambition to expand both our international presence and the scope of our business beyond our traditional activities. This investment is one more step towards our goal. BIOAGRI has an outstanding analytical platform in Latin America, notably in Brazil, an emerging market for food processing. We have had many requests from customers to develop our presence in this exciting country. BIOAGRI brings us complementary expertise on a new continent, and talented teams that will help us to better satisfy our customers’ needs,” said Philippe Sans, CEO of Silliker.

“During negotiations with the Silliker management team, it was evident that we shared common values and a strategic vision. We shared a commitment above all, to excellence in quality and customer satisfaction. This will foster a seamless integration and enable us to provide our clients with the highest levels of quality, customer service and technical support from day one,” stated Dr. Vargas, President and Director of BIOAGRI.

The complementary expertise and capabilities of Silliker and BIOAGRI, based in Brazil, will ensure full testing and consulting services for the whole region.

About Silliker

Founded in Chicago Heights, Illinois in 1967, Silliker is a privately owned company of the Mérieux-Alliance group. With 50 locations in 14 countries, Silliker provides consulting, testing, auditing, research and training services that help ensure food safety and nutrition worldwide. Silliker is recognized for its expertise in providing recommendations that help identify operational problems, anticipate areas of concern, and institute practical controls associated with food safety and quality risks. To learn more about our expert services, please log on to www.silliker.com

About BIOAGRI

BIOAGRI is the largest private group of laboratories in Latin America solely dedicated to analysis services. Founded in 1990 by Dr. Alvaro Vargas, Ph.D, BIOAGRI has established its reputation Brazil’s leading contract research laboratory in environmental, pharmaceutical, chemistry analysis and food technology.

The BIOAGRI Quality System (BSQ) guarantees strict quality control, ensuring reliability of services. BSQ includes the Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) program, in which BIOAGRI is certified by Inmetro, and the ISO 17025 standard, implemented in all laboratories of the group. BIOAGRI Laboratories is also certified by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Supplies, by ANVISA, the National Agency for Sanitary Surveillance, and by the international quality program Good Laboratory Practice GLP granted by OECD. For this reason, our services are acknowledged by private companies, government departments, and regulatory agencies for control and inspection, throughout Brazil and abroad. To learn more about our expert services, please log on to www.bioagriambiental.com.br and www.bioagri.com.br