



## Arseus is accelerating its IPO plan

**Arseus is ready to assume the consolidator role in the growing, fragmented Professional Health market in Europe.**

Nazareth (Belgium), 4 July 2007 (5:40 PM CET) – Arseus is now targeting its IPO for 2007. Initially this operation was scheduled for 2008. However, following three quarters of reorganization and business integration, Arseus reached the turning point during the last quarter of 2006, demonstrating a 5% sales growth. This turnaround was also confirmed in the first quarter of 2007 with a 9% QoQ turnover increase.

### **International banking syndicate**

Arseus has contacted various investment banks in order to select a syndicate for the envisaged IPO. Unison positive reactions confirm the feasibility of the aforementioned timing, and have led to the appointment of an international banking syndicate.

### **IPO with capital increase Arseus**

The envisaged transaction would comprise (a) a capital increase at the level of Arseus, and (b) the sale of Arseus shares by Omega Pharma. In this way, Omega Pharma (OTC) as well as Arseus will be able to strengthen their balance sheets and will increase their financial resources available for implementing their respective buy-and-build growth strategies.

### **Arseus: Operating in an attractive, fragmented market**

Arseus is the Professional Health division of the group and generated a turnover of € 277 million in 2006, with 1,230 staff members in 6 countries – representing 27% of the consolidated group turnover of Omega Pharma. Arseus has the ambition to post a turnover of € 300 million in 2007.

Arseus supplies health care professionals with products and services that enable them to provide high-quality services in an efficient manner. Arseus services pharmacists, general practitioners, specialist physicians, dentists, eye care professionals, nursing staff as well as hospitals and homes for the elderly. Ageing populations and the growing consumer awareness for health, well-being and esthetics lead to a strong growth market for Arseus.

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