

Silliker Expands in North America with Acquisition of Pioneer Dairy Laboratory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Homewood, IL, January 14, 2008 – Silliker, the leading international provider of food testing and consulting services, announced the acquisition of Pioneer Dairy Laboratory.

Founded in 1994, Pioneer provides expert services ranging from herd management to analytical testing. Accredited by the USDA and U.S. Department of Agriculture Milk Market Administrator and for specific analyses, Pioneer primarily serves dairies in the southwest region of the U.S through its Dimmitt, TX, Artesia, NM, and Stephenville, TX, laboratories.

The management team, headed by Technical Director Andy Brand, will remain and be fully involved in organizational integration activities supervised by Silliker management.

“Pioneer brings an outstanding history of quality, service, and technical excellence to Silliker,” said Philippe Sans, Silliker CEO. “Pioneer’s extensive service portfolio coupled with our dairy testing center of excellence in Modesto, CA, enables us to provide dairy companies throughout the U.S. with unparalleled safety and quality solutions. We are pleased to welcome their dedicated and responsive staff to Silliker North America.”

Silliker is a privately owned company of the Mérieux-Alliance group. The Pioneer transaction marks the third major acquisition for the company over the past several months. Last year, Silliker acquired Plant Bioactives Research Institute, a leading provider of dietary supplement services, in Orem, UT, and Vancouver-based JR Laboratories, Western Canada’s leading food testing and consulting laboratory. Silliker now operates 20 laboratories in North America.

To learn more about the Silliker organization, please log on to www.silliker.com or write info@silliker.com.

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With locations worldwide, Silliker provides consulting, testing, auditing, research and training services that help ensure food safety and nutrition. 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.