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AVENTIS
Form 425
August 12, 2004

Filed by Sanofi-Synthelabo
Pursuant to Rule 165 and Rule 425(a) under the
United States Securities Act of 1933,
as amended

Subject Company: Aventis
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On August 12, 2004, Sanofi-Synthelabo issued the following press release.

In connection with the proposed acquisition of Aventis, Sanofi-Synthelabo 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 prospectus and a prospectus supplement relating to the revised offer, and related exchange offer materials, to register the Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares (including Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares represented by Sanofi-Synthelabo 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 and has also filed with the SEC a Statement on Schedule TO. INVESTORS AND HOLDERS OF AVENTIS SECURITIES ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO READ THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT AND THE PROSPECTUS AND PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT RELATING TO THE REVISED OFFER, THE STATEMENT ON SCHEDULE TO, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE SEC, AS WELL AS ANY AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Investors and holders of Aventis securities may obtain free copies of the registration statement, the prospectus, the prospectus supplement relating to the revised offer and related exchange offer materials, and the Statement on Schedule TO, as well as other relevant documents filed with the SEC, at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. The prospectus, the prospectus supplement relating to the revised offer and other transaction-related documents are being mailed to Aventis securityholders eligible to participate in the U.S. offer and additional copies may be obtained for free from MacKenzie Partners, Inc., the information agent for the U.S. offer, at the following address: 105, Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016; telephone 1-(212) 929-5500 (call collect) or 1-(800) 322-2885 (toll-free call); e-mail proxy@mackenziepartners.com.

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[SANOFI-SYNTHELABO LOGO]

[GRAPHIC] Investor Relations

BROAD SUCCESS OF SANOFI-SYNTHELABO'S OFFER FOR AVENTIS
BEFORE ANY SUBSEQUENT OFFERING PERIOD, SANOFI-SYNTHELABO
HOLDS 95.47% OF AVENTIS SHARE CAPITAL

PARIS, FRANCE -- AUGUST 12, 2004 -- Sanofi-Synthelabo (PARIS: SAN, NYSE: SNY) announces that the French Autorite des marches financiers (AMF) today published the definitive results of Sanofi-Synthelabo's offers for Aventis. These results

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confirm that, as previously announced on August 9, 2004, as of the expiration of the offers on July 30, 2004, in aggregate 769,920,773 Aventis ordinary shares had been tendered into the French, German and U.S. offers (including 24,137,576 Aventis ordinary shares underlying the Aventis ADSs tendered into the U.S. offer). In addition, 92,692 warrants issued by Aventis in 2002 and 164,556 warrants issued by Aventis in 2003 were tendered into the French offer.

These results indicate that 769,920,773 Aventis shares representing 95.47% of the share capital and 95.52% of the voting rights of Aventis, on an issued and outstanding basis as of July 31, 2004, have been tendered into the offers. After giving effect to the offers, on a fully-diluted basis, Sanofi-Synthelabo will hold 89.84% of the share capital and 89.88% of the voting rights of Aventis. The AMF has therefore determined that the minimum tender condition to the offers has been satisfied and that the offers have been successful. Accordingly, Sanofi-Synthelabo will accept all the Aventis ordinary shares and warrants tendered in the offers and expects that the settlement of the offers and the delivery of the offer consideration in accordance with the terms of the offers will occur in respect of tendered Aventis ordinary shares on Friday, August 20, 2004 and in respect of Aventis ADSs tendered in the U.S. offer no later than Thursday, August 26, 2004 (to allow for necessary foreign exchange conversions). Euronext Paris will publish the timetable for the settlement and delivery.

EFFECT OF PRORATION AND ALLOCATION.

According to the AMF's announcement, in aggregate 157,233,058 Aventis ordinary shares were tendered for the standard entitlement, 75,690,733 Aventis ordinary shares were tendered pursuant to an all stock election and 536,996,982 Aventis ordinary shares were tendered pursuant to an all cash election. Because the aggregate number of Aventis ordinary shares tendered pursuant to an all stock election was less than 2.5512 times the

aggregate number of Aventis ordinary shares tendered pursuant to an all cash election, the all cash election was oversubscribed. After applying the proration and allocation procedures in the manner described in the offer documentation, 507,328,303 of the Aventis ordinary shares tendered pursuant to all cash elections were deemed to have been tendered for the standard entitlement, with the result that Sanofi-Synthelabo is acquiring the Aventis ordinary shares tendered in the offers according to the following distribution:

- o 664,561,361 for the standard entitlement;
- o 75,690,733 pursuant to the all stock election; and
- o 29,668,679 pursuant to the all cash election.

As a result of this allocation and proration, holders that tendered Aventis ordinary shares (or Aventis ADSs) pursuant to an all cash election will receive approximately (euro)21.89 in cash and 0.7872 of a Sanofi-Synthelabo share in exchange for each Aventis ordinary share that they tendered (or an amount in U.S. dollars equal to (euro)21.89 in cash and 1.5744 Sanofi-Synthelabo ADSs in exchange for each Aventis ADS they tendered). However, it is important to note that these per share figures do not take into account the effect of fractional shares and may reflect the effect of rounding. The consideration that holders will receive in exchange for Aventis ordinary shares (or Aventis ADSs) that they tendered for the standard entitlement or pursuant to an all stock election will not be subject to any adjustment and will be paid in the amounts described in the offer documentation.

SUBSEQUENT OFFERING PERIOD FROM AUGUST 13, 2004 TO SEPTEMBER 6, 2004

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Having obtained greater than two-thirds of the total share capital and voting rights of Aventis, Sanofi-Synthelabo today announces that it will provide a subsequent offering period in each of the French, German and U.S. offers of 17 French trading days. The terms and amount of the consideration offered in these subsequent offering periods are identical to those offered during the initial offering periods. The subsequent offering periods will commence on August 13, 2004 and expire on September 6, 2004, at 23:00 hr (Central European Summer Time) for the French and German offers and simultaneously at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) for the U.S. offer.

Sanofi-Synthelabo currently expects that the AMF will publish the results of the subsequent offering periods on or about September 16, 2004. Sanofi-Synthelabo currently expects that the settlement date of the subsequent offering periods will occur on or about September 24, 2004.

The proration and allocation adjustments described in the offer documentation will continue to apply to elections made with respect to Aventis ordinary shares tendered in the

subsequent offering period. However, as disclosed in the offer documentation, the results of the application of these proration and allocation adjustments to tenders in the subsequent offering period may differ from the results of their application to tenders in the initial offering period ended July 30, 2004 that are described in this press release.

MINORITY BUY-OUT OFFER AND COMPULSORY ACQUISITION; MERGER

At this time, no decision has been taken with respect to a possible minority buy-out offer followed by a compulsory acquisition or with respect to a possible merger of Aventis and Sanofi-Synthelabo.

DIVIDEND PAYMENT DATE

Under the terms of the offers, each Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary share issued to tendering holders of Aventis ordinary shares will entitle the holders (provided they continue to hold the Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares through payment) to receive the dividend of (euro)1.02 that the shareholders of Sanofi-Synthelabo approved for distribution in respect of Sanofi-Synthelabo's 2003 results. This dividend will be paid on or about September 30, 2004, to the holders of the new Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares to be issued in exchange for Aventis ordinary shares in the offers and, assuming it is paid on September 30, 2004, will be paid to whoever holds those Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares as of the close of business on September 29, 2004. An interim dividend of (euro)0.97 per share has already been distributed on the existing Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares. The balance of (euro)0.05 remaining on the 2003 dividend will also be paid on these existing Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares on September 30, 2004, to whoever holds those existing Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares as of the close of business on September 29, 2004.

COMPANY RENAMED SANOFI-AVENTIS

On August 20, 2004, on settlement of the offers and acquisition of the Aventis ordinary shares by Sanofi-Synthelabo, Aventis will become a controlled subsidiary of Sanofi-Synthelabo. At that time, as previously disclosed, Sanofi-Synthelabo will officially change its name to "Sanofi-Aventis".

DIRECTORS OF SANOFI-AVENTIS PROPOSED BY AVENTIS TO TAKE UP OFFICE

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Also on settlement of the offers on August 20, 2004, the following eight directors of Sanofi-Aventis will take office: Jean-Marc Bruel, Jurgen Dormann, Jean-Rene Fourtou, Serge Kampf, Igor Landau, Hubert Markl, Klaus Pohle and Hermann Scholl. As previously disclosed, each of these individuals was proposed as a candidate by the Supervisory Board of Aventis and subsequently elected by the shareholders of Sanofi-Synthelabo at their

annual general meeting on June 23, 2004, subject to the condition precedent that the offers were settled.

In accordance with article 7 of the COB rule no. 2002-04, this press release was transmitted to the Autorite des marches financiers (AMF) before its publication.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In connection with the proposed acquisition of Aventis, Sanofi-Synthelabo has filed a registration statement on Form F-4 (File no. 333-112314), including a prospectus and a prospectus supplement relating to the revised offer, and will file additional documents with the SEC. INVESTORS ARE URGED TO READ THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT, INCLUDING THE PROSPECTUS AND THE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT RELATING TO THE REVISED OFFER, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE SEC, INCLUDING ALL AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS, BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Free copies of the registration statement, as well as other relevant documents filed with the SEC, may be obtained at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. The prospectus and the prospectus supplement relating to the revised offer and other transaction-related documents are being mailed to Aventis security holders eligible to participate in the U.S. offer and additional copies may be obtained for free from MacKenzie Partners, Inc., the information agent for the U.S. offer, at the following address: 105, Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016; telephone: 1-(212) 929-5500 (call collect) or 1-(800) 322-2885 (toll-free call); e-mail proxy@mackenziepartners.com.

In France, holders of Aventis securities are requested, with respect to the offer, to refer to the prospectus supplement (note d'information complémentaire), which has been granted visa number 04-384 by the AMF and which is available on the website of the AMF (www.amf-france.org) and without cost from: BNP Paribas Securities Services, GIS-Emetteurs, Service Logistique, Les Collines de l'Arche, 75450 Paris Cedex 9 and to the recommendation statement (note d'information en reponse) which has been granted visa number 04-510.

The public offer to holders of Aventis ordinary shares located in Germany (the "German Offer") is being made in accordance with applicable German law and pursuant to an offer document/sales prospectus, which is available free of charge at BNP Paribas Securities Services, Grunenburgweg 14, D-60322 Frankfurt am Main (Fax: 069 - 152 05 277) and on the website of the Company (www.sanofi-synthelabo.com). Any decision to tender Aventis ordinary shares in exchange for Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares under the German Offer must be taken exclusively with regard to the terms and conditions of the German Offer, as well as with regard to the information included in the offer document/sales prospectus, including any amendments thereto, issued in Germany.

The French Offer, the U.S. Offer and the German Offer are being made on substantially the same terms and completion of these offers is subject to the same conditions. The three offers expired at the same time.

This press release does not constitute an offer to purchase or exchange or the solicitation of an offer to sell or exchange any securities of Aventis or an offer to sell or exchange or the solicitation of an offer to buy or exchange any

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securities of Sanofi-Synthelabo, nor shall there be any sale or exchange of securities in any jurisdiction (including the United States, Germany, Italy and Japan) in which such offer, solicitation or sale or exchange would be unlawful prior to the registration or qualification under the laws of such jurisdiction. The distribution of this communication may, in some countries, be restricted by law or regulation. Accordingly, persons who come into possession of this document should inform themselves of and observe these restrictions. The solicitation of offers to buy Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares (including Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares represented by Sanofi-Synthelabo ADSs) in the United States will only be made pursuant to a prospectus and related offer materials that Sanofi-Synthelabo expects to send to holders of Aventis securities. The Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares (including Sanofi-Synthelabo ordinary shares represented by Sanofi-Synthelabo ADSs) may not be sold, nor may offers to buy be accepted, in the United States prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. No offering of securities shall be made in the United States except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release contains statements that constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-Looking statements are statements that are not historical facts. These statements include financial projections and estimates and their underlying assumptions, statements regarding plans, objectives and expectations with respect to future operations, products and services, and statements regarding future performance. Forward-looking statements are generally identified by the words "expect," "anticipates," "believes," "intends," "estimates" and similar expressions. Although Sanofi-Synthelabo's management believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, investors are cautioned that forward-looking information and statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, many of which are difficult to predict and generally beyond the control of Sanofi-Synthelabo, that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied or projected by, the forward-looking information and statements. The following factors, among other risks and uncertainties that are described in our Form 20-F as filed with the SEC on April 2, 2004 and in the Reference Document filed with the French Autorite des Marches Financiers on April 2, 2004, could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements: the ability of Sanofi-Synthelabo to expand its presence profitably in the United States; the success of Sanofi-Synthelabo's research and development programs; the ability of Sanofi-Synthelabo to protect its intellectual property rights; and the risks associated with reimbursement of health care costs and pricing reforms, particularly

in the United States and Europe. Other than as required by applicable law, Sanofi-Synthelabo does not undertake any obligation to provide updates or to revise any forward-looking statements.

Investors and security holders may obtain a free copy of the Form 20-F filed with the SEC on April 2, 2004 and any other documents filed by Sanofi-Synthelabo with the SEC at www.sec.gov and may obtain the Reference Document filed with the AMF on April 2, 2004 (No. 04-0391) and other documents filed with the AMF at www.amf-france.org. Free copies may also be obtained directly from Sanofi-Synthelabo on our web site at: www.sanofi-synthelabo.com.

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