



Basel, June 27, 2007

Roche Commences Tender Offer for Ventana for \$75 Per Share in Cash

Roche (SWX: ROG.VX; RO.S), a world-leading healthcare provider of pharmaceuticals and diagnostics, today announced that it has commenced a cash tender offer for all outstanding shares of common stock of Ventana Medical Systems Inc. (NASDAQ: VMSI) in furtherance of Roche's previously announced proposal to acquire Ventana. The complete terms, conditions and other details of the Roche offer will be filed later today with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Under the terms of the tender offer, Roche is offering to acquire Ventana for \$75.00 per share in cash, or an aggregate of approximately \$3 billion. This offer represents a 44% premium to Ventana's close of \$51.95 on June 22, 2007 (the last trading day before Roche submitted its proposal in writing to Ventana) and a 55% premium to its three-month average of \$48.30.

The offer and withdrawal rights are scheduled to expire at 12:00 midnight, New York City time on Thursday, July 26, 2007, unless the offer is extended.

The offer will be conditioned upon, among other things, the tender of a majority of Ventana's shares of common stock on a fully diluted basis, Ventana's Board taking all necessary actions to make its shareholder rights plan inapplicable to Roche's offer, receipt of necessary regulatory approvals, and other customary conditions. The Roche proposal is a fully financed, all-cash transaction, with no significant anticipated regulatory hurdles to completion.

The complete terms and conditions will be set out in the Offer to Purchase, which will be filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission today, June 27, 2007. Ventana stockholders may obtain copies of all of the offering documents, including the Offer to Purchase, free of charge at the SEC's website (www.sec.gov) or by directing a request to MacKenzie Partners, Inc., the Information Agent for the offer, at (212) 929-5500 OR (800) 322-2885 (TOLL-FREE).

Greenhill & Co. and Citi are acting as financial advisors to Roche and Davis Polk & Wardwell is acting as legal counsel.

About Roche

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is one of the world's leading research-focused healthcare groups in the fields of pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. As the world's biggest biotech company and an innovator of products and services for the early detection, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, the Group contributes on a broad range of fronts to improving people's health and quality of life. Roche is the world leader in in-vitro diagnostics and drugs for cancer and transplantation, a market leader in virology and active in other major therapeutic areas such as autoimmune diseases, inflammation, metabolism and central nervous system. In 2006 sales by the Pharmaceuticals Division totaled CHF 33.3 billion, and the Diagnostics Division posted sales of CHF 8.7 billion. Roche employs roughly 75,000 people worldwide and has R&D agreements and strategic alliances with numerous partners, including majority ownership interests in Genentech and Chugai.

Roche's Diagnostics Division offers a uniquely broad product portfolio and supplies a wide array of innovative testing products and services to researchers, physicians, patients, hospitals and laboratories world-wide.

Roche commenced operations in the U.S. over 100 years ago and these operations include research and development centers that conduct leading-edge work in advancing disease detection and treatment. Our diagnostics and pharmaceuticals businesses in the U.S. employ more than 20,000 people and generate approximately \$10 billion in sales (including Genentech), accounting for about 40% of the Roche Group's global annual revenues.

For further information on Roche, please visit www.roche.com. Further information on the offer to Ventana's shareholders, please visit www.roche.com/info070625.

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Roche Group Media Office

Phone: +41 61 688 8888 / e-mail: basel.mediaoffice@roche.com

- Daniel Piller (Head of Roche Group Media Office)

- Baschi Dürr

Brunswick Group (for U.S. media)

Phone: +1 212 333 3810

- Steve Lipin

- Nina Devlin

MacKenzie Partners (Information Agent for the offer)

Phone: +1 212 929 5500 or +1 800 322 2885 (toll-free)

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EARNINGS OR EARNINGS PER SHARE OF ROCHE.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND WHERE TO FIND IT

THIS PRESS RELEASE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER TO PURCHASE OR A SOLICITATION OF AN OFFER TO SELL VENTANA'S COMMON STOCK. THE TENDER OFFER IS BEING MADE PURSUANT TO A TENDER OFFER STATEMENT ON SCHEDULE TO (INCLUDING THE OFFER TO PURCHASE, LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL AND OTHER RELATED TENDER OFFER MATERIALS) FILED BY ROCHE WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC) ON JUNE 27, 2007. THESE MATERIALS, AS THEY MAY BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION, INCLUDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE OFFER, THAT SHOULD BE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE ANY DECISION IS MADE WITH RESPECT TO THE TENDER OFFER. INVESTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS CAN OBTAIN A FREE COPY OF THESE MATERIALS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS FILED BY ROCHE WITH THE SEC AT THE WEBSITE MAINTAINED BY THE SEC AT WWW.SEC.GOV. THE TENDER OFFER MATERIALS MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED FOR FREE BY CONTACTING THE INFORMATION AGENT FOR THE TENDER OFFER, MACKENZIE PARTNERS AT (212) 929-5500 OR (800) 322-2885 (TOLL-FREE).