Basel, 25 January 2012

Roche offers to acquire all outstanding shares of Illumina, Inc. to further strengthen its leading role in diagnostics

• Together with Illumina, Roche will strengthen its position in the Life Science and Diagnostics market, with complementary technologies in Genetics/Genomics research and routine diagnostics.
• Roche and Illumina’s combined capabilities and global reach will help accelerate the transition of sequencing into clinical and routine diagnostics.
• Roche intends to combine its existing Applied Science business with Illumina and move the business area’s headquarters to San Diego, California, USA. Roche also plans to maintain operations in Penzberg, Germany, the current headquarters of Roche Applied Science.
• Roche’s proposal of $44.50 per share in cash offers a substantial premium for Illumina shareholders.

Roche (SIX: RO, ROG; OTCQX: RHHBY) announced today that it is proposing to acquire all outstanding shares of Illumina, Inc. (NASDAQ:ILMN) for $44.50 per share in cash, or an aggregate of approximately $5.7 billion on a fully diluted basis. This offer represents a 64% premium over Illumina’s stock price on December 21, 2011 – the day before market rumors about a potential transaction between Roche and Illumina drove Illumina’s stock price significantly higher – a 61% premium over the one-month historical average and a 43% premium over the three-month historical average of Illumina’s share price, both as of December 21. It also represents a 30.1x multiple of Illumina’s projected forward earnings based upon analysts’ current consensus estimates for 2012.

Together, the capabilities of Roche’s Diagnostics Division and Illumina, a leading provider of integrated systems for DNA sequencing, will strengthen Roche’s position in Sequencing and Microarrays to address the growing demand for genetic/genomic solutions. In addition, Roche’s extensive diagnostics experience and global presence will help accelerate the transition of DNA sequencing into clinical and routine diagnostics. DNA sequencing is expected to help to discover complex biomarkers that could become companion diagnostics and be paired with specific treatments in the long-term.
Severin Schwan, CEO of Roche Group, said, “Roche’s all-cash offer of $44.50 per share represents full and fair value for Illumina and we expect that Illumina’s shareholders will welcome the opportunity to sell their shares at a significant premium to current market prices. It is our strong preference to enter into a negotiated transaction with Illumina, and we remain willing to engage in a constructive dialogue with Illumina to jointly develop an optimal strategy for maximizing the value of our combined business.”

Roche has made multiple efforts to engage with Illumina in order to reach a negotiated transaction, but Illumina has been unwilling to participate in substantive discussions. Roche has therefore decided to promptly commence a tender offer to purchase all of the outstanding shares of common stock of Illumina for $44.50 per share in cash. In addition, Roche will nominate a slate of highly qualified, independent candidates for election to Illumina’s Board of Directors and propose certain other matters for the consideration of Illumina’s shareholders at Illumina’s 2012 annual meeting, which, if adopted, would result in Roche-nominated directors comprising a majority of the Illumina board.

Daniel O’Day, COO, Roche Diagnostics Division, said, “The proposed acquisition will strengthen Roche’s current offering in the Life Science market by providing complementary solutions to our current portfolio. Our ability to offer a total solution to researchers will help enable the discovery of complex new biomarkers improving drug discovery and the selection of patients most likely to respond to a targeted treatment with high clinical relevance. In addition, by building on Illumina’s capabilities Roche will be able to use its scale, global distribution and diagnostic test development expertise to develop new diagnostic tests that serve patients and customers even more effectively.”

Roche intends to combine its existing Roche Applied Science business with Illumina and move the business area’s headquarters to San Diego, California. Roche also plans to maintain operations in Penzberg, Germany, the current headquarters of Roche Applied Science.

Roche’s offer will be subject to customary conditions, including the tender of a majority of Illumina’s shares of common stock. The offer will be financed from available cash on Roche’s balance sheet and borrowings under its credit facilities and therefore will not require a financing condition.

Greenhill & Co., LLC and Citigroup Global Markets, Inc. are acting as financial advisors to Roche and Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP is acting as legal counsel.
Below is the text of the letter Roche sent on January 25, 2012 (CET) to Jay Flatley, President and Chief Executive Officer of Illumina, Inc.

Dear Jay:

While I appreciate the time you have taken to speak with me over the course of the last several weeks, the lack of any substantive progress in our efforts to negotiate a business combination between Illumina and Roche, and your January 18 letter confirming your board’s lack of interest in such a transaction, has led us to decide to publicly disclose our proposal to acquire all outstanding shares of Illumina at a price of $44.50 per share in cash. Accordingly, we will make this letter public simultaneously with my sending it to you.

Roche’s offer price of $44.50 per share in cash represents a substantial premium to Illumina’s unaffected market prices: a premium of 64% over Illumina’s closing stock price on December 21, 2011 – the day before market rumors about a potential transaction between Roche and Illumina drove Illumina’s stock price significantly higher – a 61% premium over the one month historical average and a 43% premium over the three month historical average of Illumina’s share price, both as of December 21. It also represents a 30.1x multiple of Illumina’s projected forward earnings based upon analysts’ current consensus estimates for 2012.

This is a compelling offer and we are confident that your stockholders will find it extremely attractive. We hope that your board will now take the opportunity to negotiate a transaction that will allow your shareholders to realize this substantial value.

We believe that our proposal presents a unique opportunity for Roche and Illumina and their respective stockholders and Roche believes that it is imperative to continue to pursue this matter. The price, with the large premium it represents, is a full and fair one. We have available cash on our balance sheet and borrowings under our credit facilities to complete the transaction and we therefore will not require a financing condition.

As I have expressed to you previously, we are mindful that you and your management team have contributed greatly to Illumina’s success. Roche contemplates continued employment of Illumina’s management and employees following the consummation of a transaction and we are prepared to work with you to develop mutually satisfactory employment arrangements. We intend to continue the Illumina legacy within the Roche Diagnostics Division, and to maintain the Illumina brand. To that end, we intend to combine our existing
Roche Applied Science business with Illumina and move the business area’s headquarters to San Diego, California. We believe this approach should be attractive to your management and employees.

Roche has attempted to engage Illumina’s management and Board of Directors in a discussion on the merits of a business combination. Unfortunately, Illumina has been unwilling to engage in any meaningful dialogue on this matter. Therefore, while Roche continues to prefer a negotiated transaction with Illumina, Roche intends to promptly commence a tender offer to purchase all of the outstanding shares of common stock of Illumina for $44.50 per share in cash. Additionally, in view of your board’s response, we plan to nominate a slate of directors and make certain other proposals for the consideration of shareholders at Illumina’s 2012 annual meeting which, if adopted, would result in Roche-nominated directors comprising a majority of your board.

We have engaged Greenhill & Co., LLC and Citigroup Global Markets Inc. as financial advisors and Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP as legal counsel to assist in completing this transaction. If you are willing to fully engage with us, we and our advisors are ready to meet with your representatives at any time to discuss this proposal and to answer any questions you have. We believe that time is of the essence and are prepared to move forward expeditiously by committing all necessary resources to complete a transaction promptly. If you are interested in discussing a possible negotiated transaction, please contact me as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Franz B. Humer
Chairman, Roche Holding Ltd

**Media call**

There will be a telephone conference for the media on Wednesday, January 25 10:00 am CET. At that time the slide deck on today’s announcement is available on [http://www.roche.com/irp120125.pdf](http://www.roche.com/irp120125.pdf)

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About Roche
Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is the world’s largest biotech company with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, virology, inflammation, metabolism and CNS. Roche is also the world leader in in-vitro diagnostics, tissue-based cancer diagnostics and a pioneer in diabetes management. Roche’s personalised healthcare strategy aims at providing medicines and diagnostic tools that enable tangible improvements in the health, quality of life and survival of patients. In 2010, Roche had over 80’000 employees worldwide and invested over 9 billion Swiss francs in R&D. The Group posted sales of 47.5 billion Swiss francs. Genentech, United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche has a majority stake in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information: www.roche.com.

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Additional information
Additional detail regarding the offer can be found on www.transactioninfo.com/Roche.

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This announcement contains certain forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements may be identified by words such as “believes”, “expects”, “anticipates”, “projects”, “intends”, “should”, “seeks”, “estimates”, “future” or similar expressions or by discussion of, among other things, strategy, goals, plans or intentions. Various factors may cause actual results to differ materially in the future from those reflected in forward-looking statements contained in this document, among others: (1) economic and currency conditions; (2) competitive and technological factors; and (3) risks and uncertainties relating to the proposed transaction.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND WHERE TO FIND IT

This announcement is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer to purchase or a solicitation of an offer to sell Illumina common stock. The solicitation and offer to buy Illumina common stock will only be made pursuant to an offer to purchase and related materials. Investors and security holders are urged to read these materials carefully when they become available since they will contain important information, including the terms and conditions of the offer. The offer to purchase and related materials will be filed by Roche with the securities and exchange commission (SEC), and investors and security holders may obtain a free copy of these materials (when available) and other documents filed by Roche with the SEC at the website maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov. The offer to purchase and related materials may also be obtained (when available) for free by contacting the information agent for the tender offer, Mackenzie Partners, at (212) 929-5500 or (800) 322-2885 (toll-free).

Roche will be filing a proxy statement on schedule 14A and other relevant documents with the SEC in connection with its solicitation of proxies for the 2012 annual meeting of Illumina (the “proxy statement”). Promptly after filing a definitive proxy statement with the SEC, Roche will mail the proxy statement and a proxy card to each Illumina stockholder entitled to vote at the 2012 annual meeting. Investors and security holders are urged to read the proxy statement carefully and in its entirety when it becomes available and any other relevant documents filed with the SEC because they will contain important information. Investors and security holders may obtain a free copy of these materials (when available) and other documents filed by Roche with the SEC at the website maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov. The proxy statement and related materials may also be obtained (when available) for free by contacting the information agent for the tender offer, Mackenzie Partners, at (212) 929-5500 or (800) 322-2885 (toll-free).

Roche Holding Ltd, CKH Acquisition Corporation and the individuals nominated by CKH Acquisition Corporation for election to Illumina’s board of directors (the “Roche nominees”) may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from Illumina stockholders for use at the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof. The directors and executive officers of Roche Holding Ltd and CKH Acquisition Corporation who may be participants in the solicitation of proxies have not been determined as of the date of this press release. No additional compensation will be paid to such directors and executive officers for such services. Investors and security holders can obtain additional information regarding the direct and indirect interests of the Roche nominees and other participants by reading the definitive proxy statement when it becomes available.