

Silliker Strengthens its position in the Iberia Peninsula with the acquisition of EGI, Portugal's Leading Food Testing and Consulting Laboratory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Homewood, IL, March 4, 2008 – Silliker, the world leader in the field of food safety and quality services, announced today that it has acquired 80% of the Portuguese company EGI, specializing in food microbiology testing, a strategic activity for Silliker.

Founded in 1992 and located in Porto, the second largest city in Portugal, EGI is a privately held company, employs 45 people, and is recognized as the country's leading food testing and technical consulting laboratory. From its state-of-the-art facility, EGI serves many of the nation's major food companies and retailers.

Under terms of the acquisition, Fatima Castro and Joaquim Neves, two of the laboratory's original founders, will continue in their roles of Managing Director and member of the Board respectively, at the newly renamed company – Silliker Portugal.

This acquisition will also enable Silliker to reinforce and expand its international network with an increased presence in the Iberian Peninsula.

“Our strategic ambition is to become the undisputed world-leader in food safety and quality services. The acquisition is one more step towards our goal. EGI brings us not only new laboratory capabilities, but also a team with an expertise that will help us to better satisfy our customers' needs,” said Philippe Sans, President and CEO of Silliker.

“During negotiations with the EGI management team, it was evident that we shared common values and a strategic vision. We shared a commitment above all, to excellence in quality and customer satisfaction. This will foster a seamless integration and enable us to provide our clients with the highest levels of quality, customer service and technical support from day one,” he added.

The complementary expertise and capabilities of Silliker Portugal and Silliker Iberia, based in Barcelona, will ensure full testing and consulting services for regional retailers, processors, and foodservice companies.

About Silliker

Founded in Chicago Heights, IL, Silliker is a privately owned company of the Mérieux-Alliance group.

With 50 locations in 14 countries, Silliker provides consulting, testing, auditing, research and training services that help ensure food safety and nutrition to industry, retailers and restaurants. 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.

To learn more about our expert services, please log on to **www.silliker.com**.