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QIAGEN N.V. to Acquire Rosys AG

Leader in High Throughput Liquid Handling Instrumentation Joins Forces with QIAGEN

VENLO, The Netherlands, June 2 /PRNewswire/ -- QIAGEN N.V. (Nasdaq: QGENF, Neuer Markt: QIA) today announced the signing of an agreement to acquire all outstanding shares of privately held Rosys AG, a leader in the field of liquid handling instrumentation, in a stock-for-stock transaction valued at approximately \$15.8 million. Rosys AG, founded in 1990, develops, produces and markets innovative liquid handling robotic systems and is considered to be a technology leader in the area of high throughput liquid handling for the life sciences industry. Rosys has been OEM supplier of instrumentation products and robotics technologies for QIAGEN's rapidly growing BioRobot(TM) product lines for almost 5 years. Rosys' robotic systems combine flexible multi-channel pipetting with transport of microtiter plates and other devices to provide reliable tube-to-plate and plate-to-plate transfer for a wide variety of applications.

"We are very excited about both the existing and the emerging opportunities that are offered by the combination of Rosys' leading-edge liquid handling and robotic technology with QIAGEN's technologies and products for the separation and purification of nucleic acids," said Dr. Metin Colpan, QIAGEN Chief Executive Officer. "The revenues from QIAGEN's instrumentation products based on this combination are growing strongly as a result of the increasing need for automated nucleic acid purification, particularly in the genomics and molecular diagnostics areas. We believe that the acquisition of Rosys will increase our leadership in these expanding markets. By combining the innovative technologies of both companies we can develop unique integrated solutions designed to fulfill the instrumentation and consumable needs of this growing pool of potential customers. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Rosys into the QIAGEN group. We have worked closely with Rosys and its employees for many years and are very impressed with their excellence in engineering and robotics."

Heinz Abplanalp, Rosys' Chief Executive Officer, added: "Our strong focus on the life science and diagnostic applications of liquid handling systems and robotics can be greatly leveraged by the addition of the market and technology leading products offered by QIAGEN. We are proud to be associated with the success of QIAGEN's BioRobot products for automated separation, purification, and handling of nucleic acids using our leading liquid handling and robotics technologies. We believe that there are a wealth of further opportunities for automation of QIAGEN's technologies, and we see a number of exciting products and applications that we are looking forward to addressing through the combination of QIAGEN's and Rosys' technologies. Linking the QIAGEN and Rosys technology platforms will continue to increase the benefits we offer our customers." It is expected that the transaction will be treated as a pooling of interests for accounting purposes. The transaction closed on May 28, 1998 and is anticipated to be neutral to QIAGEN's 1998 earnings per share.

Rosys AG, based in Hombrechtikon, Switzerland, is a fast-growing, leading provider of liquid handling and robotic systems to the life science industry for applications including diagnostics, molecular biology, and high throughput screening. Rosys has developed a series of products marketed directly or through dealers under the "Plato" name or sold through OEM agreements under private labels. Since the introduction of the Plato series in 1992, over 500 such instruments have been placed worldwide. In 1998, QIAGEN became Rosys' largest customer. Rosys employs 38 people of which 12 are employed in research and development.

QIAGEN N.V., a Netherlands holding company with subsidiaries in Germany, the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, France, Australia and Canada, believes it is the world's leading provider of innovative enabling technologies and products for the separation and purification of nucleic acids. The Company has developed a comprehensive portfolio of more than 260 proprietary, consumable products for nucleic acid separation and purification, nucleic acid amplification, as well as automated instrumentation and related services. QIAGEN's products are sold in more than 35 countries throughout the world to academic research markets and also to leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. In addition, the Company is positioning its products for sale into developing commercial markets, including DNA sequencing and genomics, nucleic acid-based molecular diagnostics, and genetic vaccination and gene therapy.

Certain of the statements contained in this news release may be considered forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. To the extent that any of the statements contained herein relating to QIAGEN's products and markets are forward-looking, such statements are based on current expectations that involve a number of uncertainties and risks. Such uncertainties and risks include, but are not limited to, risks associated with management of growth and international operations (including the effects of currency fluctuations), variability of operating results, the commercial development of the DNA sequencing and genomics market, nucleic acid-based diagnostics market, and genetic vaccination and gene therapy markets, competition, rapid or unexpected changes in technologies, fluctuations in demand for QIAGEN's products (including seasonal fluctuations), and the Company's ability to identify and develop new products and to differentiate its products from competitors. For further information, refer to the discussion in reports that the Company has filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).