

MERCK & CO INC
Form DEFA14A
June 05, 2009

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Merck & Co., Inc.
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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- (4) Date Filed:

This filing consists of “Merck Statement on Animal Health Business” posted on the Merck & Co., Inc. (“Merck”) internal website on June 3, 2009, in connection with the proposed transaction between Merck and Schering-Plough Corporation.

Published in The Daily on June 3

Merck Statement on Animal Health Businesses

Media reports are circulating that Merck is considering selling Schering-Plough's animal health business or our interest in Merial as part of the companies' proposed merger.

While the Animal Health unit is an important part of Schering-Plough, Merck is currently participating in this market through our JV with Sanofi-Aventis (called Merial) which had sales of \$2.6 billion in 2008. This does add some complexity to the regulatory clearance process for the proposed merger.

As a result, Merck is continuing to explore all of its strategic options for the animal health business. These include divesting Merck's 50-percent interest in the Merial joint venture or divesting the Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health business, among other possibilities.

As we said at the time of the merger announcement, these are both strong businesses and Animal Health is an area in which we will continue to operate. We also said that we have a variety of options with respect to the animal health businesses and we intend to explore the opportunities open to us. We are doing just that.

There have not been any decisions made at this point and it would be premature to speculate about any eventual outcome.

As we continue to explore our options, you should expect continued media attention and speculation about these or other options. We will communicate more information as we finalize strategic plans for the animal health business.

Forward-Looking Statements

This communication includes “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements may include, but are not limited to, statements about the benefits of the proposed merger between Merck and Schering-Plough, including future financial and operating results, the combined company’s plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts. Such statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of Merck’s and Schering-Plough’s management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements: the possibility that the expected synergies from the proposed merger of Merck and Schering-Plough will not be realized, or will not be realized within the expected time period, due to, among other things, the impact of pharmaceutical industry regulation and pending legislation that could affect the pharmaceutical industry; the ability to obtain governmental and self-regulatory organization approvals of the merger on the proposed terms and schedule; the actual terms of the financing required for the merger and/or the failure to obtain such financing; the failure of Schering-Plough or Merck stockholders to approve the merger; the risk that the businesses will not be integrated successfully; disruption from the merger making it more difficult to maintain business and operational relationships; the possibility that the merger does not close, including, but not limited to, due to the failure to satisfy the closing conditions; Merck’s and Schering-Plough’s ability to accurately predict future market conditions; dependence on the effectiveness of Merck’s and Schering-Plough’s patents and other protections for innovative products; the risk of new and changing regulation and health policies in the U.S. and internationally and the exposure to litigation and/or regulatory actions. Merck and Schering-Plough undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Additional factors that could cause results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in Merck’s 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K, Schering-Plough’s 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K, the preliminary proxy statement filed by Merck on May 21, 2009 and each company’s other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) available at the SEC’s Internet site (www.sec.gov).

Additional Information

In connection with the proposed transaction, Schering-Plough filed a registration statement, including a preliminary joint proxy statement of Merck and Schering-Plough, with the SEC. Investors are urged to read the registration statement and joint proxy statement (including all amendments and supplements to it) because they contain important information. Investors may obtain free copies of the registration statement and preliminary joint proxy statement, as well as other filings containing information about Merck and Schering-Plough, without charge, at the SEC’s Internet web site (www.sec.gov). These documents may also be obtained for free from Schering-Plough’s Investor Relations web site (www.schering-plough.com) or by directing a request to Schering-Plough’s Investor Relations at (908) 298-7436. Copies of Merck’s filings may be obtained for free from Merck’s Investor Relations Web Site (www.merck.com) or by directing a request to Merck at Merck’s Office of the Secretary, (908) 423-1000.

Merck and Schering-Plough and their respective directors and executive officers and other members of management and employees are potential participants in the solicitation of proxies from Merck and Schering-Plough shareholders in respect of the proposed transaction.

Information regarding Schering-Plough’s directors and executive officers is available in Schering-Plough’s proxy statement for its 2009 annual meeting of shareholders, filed with the SEC on April 27, 2009, and information regarding Merck’s directors and executive officers is available in the registration statement and preliminary joint proxy

statement, filed with the SEC on May 20, 2009. Additional information regarding the interests of such potential participants in the solicitation of proxies in connection with the contemplated transactions is included in the registration statement and preliminary joint proxy statement filed with the SEC in connection with the proposed transaction.