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COMP/M. 4049 – Novartis / Chiron

SECTION 1.2

Description of the concentration

On [23 December 2005], the Commission received the notification of a proposed concentration by which Novartis AG (“Novartis”, Switzerland) will acquire sole control over Chiron Corporation (“Chiron”, USA). Novartis, which already owns a minority shareholding in Chiron, will acquire all outstanding Chiron shares.

Novartis is a pharmaceuticals company active in the development, production and distribution of medical products, including prescription pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and animal health products. Chiron is a biotechnology company active in blood testing products, biopharmaceuticals and human vaccines.