

# LENZ & STAEHELIN

MEDIA RELEASE

## **Lenz & Staehelin advises Bertarelli family on the sale of Serono shares to Merck**

Geneva, 26 September 2006 – The leading Swiss law firm Lenz & Staehelin has advised Ernesto Bertarelli, his mother Iris Bertarelli and his sister Donata Bertarelli Späth on the sale of their shares in Serono to the global pharmaceutical and chemical company Merck KGaA that was announced September 21, 2006.

Merck has agreed to acquire Serono shares for about CHF 16.6 billion (€ 10.6 billion) from the Bertarelli family.

The legal team of Lenz & Staehelin was led by Andreas von Planta and included Guy Vermeil and Jacques Iffland from the transaction team and Jean-Blaise Eckert and Daniel Schafer from the tax team.

Lenz & Staehelin collaborated with a team from Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, led by Stephen Arcano.

The firm had advised the Credit Suisse Group on the sale of Winterthur Swiss Insurance Company to the French insurance group AXA for CHF 12.3 billion (€ 7.9 billion) in June 2006 and was thus engaged in the two largest transactions in Switzerland this year.

At the same time, Lenz & Staehelin received the International Law Office Client Choice Award 2006 last week – the fourth award as Swiss law firm of the year in 2006.

**Notes to editors:**

With more than 130 attorneys in offices in Zurich, Geneva, Lausanne and Fribourg Lenz & Staehelin is the largest law firm in Switzerland. The firm is specialized in all areas of domestic and international business law.

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