

Media Release

Synthes Continues Strong Performance With Third Quarter 2008 Sales Growth of 17.2% (14.0% in Local Currency)

West Chester (PA), USA, October 23, 2008

Synthes (SWX: SYST.VX) today announced its Third Quarter and First Nine Months 2008 sales results with growth of 17.2% and 17.8%, respectively (14.0% and 13.1%, respectively, in local currency).

Third Quarter 2008

- **Consolidated sales** were US\$ 807.7 million
- **Double-digit sales growth** was once again achieved across all geographical regions and product groups
- **Accelerated sales growth** experienced by **Spine** globally
- **New product introductions, continued sales force expansion and investments** in education and field sales equipment continue to be key contributors to positive results

First Nine Months 2008

- **Consolidated sales** were US\$ 2,381.2 million
- **Global Trauma growth remained stable**
- **Asia Pacific, "Rest of World" and global Spine** accelerated revenue growth
- **Other achievements** include **ProDisc®-C** launch in the U.S. and the settlement of the **Trochanteric Fixation Nail (TFN)** case

Michel Orsinger, President and CEO of Synthes, commented on the performance:

"We are very pleased to have produced another strong quarter of growth which spans all regions and product groups. Synthes continues to gain global market share driven primarily by new product introductions, a knowledgeable and customer-focused sales force, and high quality educational activities."

SALES RESULTS (unaudited)

Consolidated Net Sales (in US\$ millions)	Third Quarter 2008 (July - September)			
	2008	2007	% Change (in US\$)	% Change (in local currency)*
North America	481.2	431.7	11.5%	11.4%
Europe	188.6	156.1	20.9%	12.9%
Asia Pacific	75.4	60.6	24.3%	17.7%
Rest of World	62.5	40.8	53.3%	39.5%
Total	807.7	689.2	17.2%	14.0%

Consolidated Net Sales (in US\$ millions)	First Nine Months 2008 (January - September)			
	2008	2007	% Change (in US\$)	% Change (in local currency)*
North America	1,424.7	1,274.0	11.8%	11.5%
Europe	575.8	459.4	25.3%	13.2%
Asia Pacific	225.3	175.1	28.7%	17.5%
Rest of World	155.4	113.2	37.3%	23.4%
Total	2,381.2	2,021.7	17.8%	13.1%

* Local currency: 2008 results translated at 2007 foreign exchange rates

REGIONAL PERFORMANCE (Third Quarter 2008)

The company achieved double-digit sales growth in **North America** during the third quarter. The Spine product group was a major contributor to the region's growth primarily as a result of new product introductions and accelerated sales force expansion. Trauma grew at a solid rate in Q3 2008, versus a strong Q3 2007 base.

Europe continued to post strong double-digit sales growth driven primarily by volume growth. The LCP platform for Trauma and the Pangea system for Spine continued to be strong performers and contributors to success. CMF maintained sales growth momentum, primarily due to mid-face and neurosurgery products. Italy, Spain, France and Austria were key growth contributors and realized significant gains over the previous year.

Asia Pacific continued to achieve robust double-digit growth across all product groups. The region's high-teens growth rate was fueled by strong performances in all major countries, including China and India. Also, Japan grew double-digit despite the impact of a government-mandated price cut in April 2008.

Rest of World growth was positively impacted by additional shipments of a tender order to the Middle East. Latin America also continued with strong performance, posting attractive double-digit growth rates for all three product groups.

PRODUCT GROUP DEVELOPMENTS (Third Quarter 2008)

TRAUMA

Trauma's growth in the third quarter was driven by the **TFN** (Trochanteric Fixation Nail) and the **PFNA** (Proximal Femoral Nail), both femoral nails for the treatment of common fractures of the upper leg. The ongoing expansion of the **LCP (Locking Compression Plate)** platform continues to contribute to growth.

Significant new products launched in the third quarter include the **EPOCA Shoulder Prosthesis** (in the U.S.), the **LCP Wrist Fusion** system and the **Headless Compression Screw** line extension. The **EPOCA Shoulder Prosthesis** system is used for hemi and total shoulder arthroplasty and offers multiple implant options for the fixation of the shoulder. The **LCP Wrist Fusion** system represents an expansion of our locked plating offering. The new **Headless Compression Screw** line extension increases our offering for the fixation of fractures and non-unions of small bones.

SPINE

Synapse, **Pangea**, **Zero-P** and **SynFix-LR** systems were the key contributors to Spine's encouraging performance.

Synapse is a comprehensive set of instruments and implants designed for posterior stabilization of the upper spine. The implants provide the flexibility required to accommodate variations in patient anatomy, therefore, satisfying the preferences of numerous surgeons while simplifying the procedure. **Pangea** is a pedicle screw system used to stabilize degenerated lumbar spine segments. **Zero-P** is designed as a zero-profile plate/spacer combination with screws to provide similar stability to a traditional cervical plate and interbody spacer. **SynFix-LR**, a cage with screws to replace and fuse a diseased intervertebral disc, provides clinical superiority with its unique anterior-only access.

Additionally, the **ProDisc®-Total Disc Replacement** systems (both lumbar and cervical) continued to gain traction in the U.S. market.

CMF

CMF produced high double-digit growth in Europe, Asia Pacific and "Rest of World".

MatrixNEURO and **MatrixMIDFACE** continued to gain clinical acceptance and fuel growth for this product group. **MatrixNEURO** is a cranial plating system that offers a complete line of plates, screws and instrumentation designed specifically for neurosurgical fixation, and **MatrixMIDFACE** is a comprehensive plating system for the midface and craniofacial skeleton.

Synthes: A leading medical device company

Synthes is a leading global medical device company. We develop, produce and market instruments, implants and biomaterials for the surgical fixation, correction and regeneration of the human skeleton and its soft tissues.

Financial Analyst Phone Conference

For details about today's Financial Analyst Phone Conference at 2.30 PM CEST please refer to the Investor Relations Calendar on <http://www.synthes.com/html/?id=7326>.

Image Bank

A selection of product and company images can be found on <http://www.synthes.com/html/Media-Corner.7325.0.html?&L=0>.

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In addition, it should be noted that past financial and operational performance of the company is not necessarily indicative of future financial and operational performance. Synthes undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

The securities of Synthes have been offered and sold outside the United States and have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("Securities Act"). Such securities may not be offered, sold or transferred in the U.S. or to U.S. Persons (as defined in the regulations of the Securities Act), except pursuant to a registration statement filed under the Securities Act or under an applicable exemption under the Securities Act. Hedging transactions involving such securities may not be conducted unless in compliance with the Securities Act. The Synthes securities are deemed "Restricted Securities" as that term is defined in Rule 144 under the Securities Act.