



## **THE ELITECH GROUP ANNOUNCES COMBINATION WITH NANOGEN, INC.**

This combination will create a global *in vitro* diagnostic company with brand identity and an initial full year expectations for over \$150 million in revenue.

**PARIS, FRANCE, August 18, 2008** — The Elitech Group, a private French diagnostic company, announced an agreement to merge with the American company Nanogen, Inc., developer of molecular and rapid *in vitro* diagnostic products. The combination will create a global provider of products to the molecular, point-of-care, clinical chemistry and microbiology diagnostic markets with expected first year revenues of more than \$150 million. The transaction combines the strong revenue and profit base stemming from The Elitech Group's global manufacturing, sales and distribution of IVD products for the clinical chemistry and microbiology markets with Nanogen's technology leadership in molecular and point-of-care diagnostics.

The combination is structured as a stock exchange of shares of Nanogen common stock for all of the Elitech capital stock and is a reverse acquisition of Nanogen by The Elitech Group. The combination is expected to create a transatlantic company that will continue to be listed on NASDAQ. The name of the combined company has not been determined yet.

"This is a true example of synergy between two companies in the *in vitro* diagnostics industry," commented Pierre Debiais, President of Elitech. "We are delighted to be able to combine Nanogen's technology strength with our market reach in the international marketplace and collectively deliver the critical mass required to address the US diagnostic market."

"The combination with Elitech will accelerate the transition of Nanogen into a global, profitable diagnostic company with the critical mass needed to bring our leading molecular and point-of-care technologies to customers worldwide," said Howard Birndorf, Nanogen's chairman and CEO. "I believe the resulting combination will create value for our shareholders, customers and employees."

The combined company will be placed under the leadership of Pierre Debiais as CEO and its headquarters will be in San Diego, California. Michael Saunders, currently group vice president of marketing and business development for The Elitech Group will become COO, with a focus on European business and global commercial operations. David Ludvigson, currently president and COO for Nanogen, will become COO, with a focus on the United States business and global business and finance. Nick Venuto, currently vice president, CFO of Nanogen, will serve in the same capacity for the combined entity.

The combined business is currently growing at more than 20% annually and the combined company will benefit from opportunities for revenue growth even bigger, especially in molecular biology, rapid tests, clinical chemistry and microbiology specialties.

The share exchange agreement is subject to approval by Nanogen's stockholders as well as customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals. The transaction is expected to close by the end first quarter of 2009.

***About The Elitech Group***

The Elitech Group ([www.Elitechgroup.com](http://www.Elitechgroup.com)) is a high growth, profitable *in vitro* diagnostic company with global sales and distribution capabilities in over 100 countries. The company is the largest independent distributor of *in vitro* diagnostic products in France. Elitech offers clinical chemistry, microbiology, immunology and electrophoresis products and operates globally, leveraging products from its own biochemistry and microbiology equipment and reagents manufacturing facilities as well as third party products. In May 2007 Elitech acquired Wescor Inc, Utah USA ([www.wescor.com](http://www.wescor.com)) to broaden its biomedical products platform and to provide a base for business expansion in the USA. In October 2007 Elitech acquired Vital Scientific in the Netherlands to allow the company to offer a complete biochemistry offering. Elitech sells via distributors and through its subsidiaries in the USA and several European countries. Elitech's website is [www.elitechgroup.com](http://www.elitechgroup.com).

***About Nanogen, Inc.***

Nanogen provides innovative, high quality diagnostic products to clinicians, physicians and researchers worldwide, making it easier to predict, diagnose and, ultimately, help treat disease in a timely fashion. The company's products include molecular diagnostic kits and reagents and kits for rapid, point-of-care diagnostic tests. Nanogen has pioneered research in areas involving nanotechnology, biomarkers, and molecular biology to bring better results to diagnostics and healthcare. For additional information please visit Nanogen's website at [www.nanogen.com](http://www.nanogen.com).