

Synthetech Reports First Quarter Fiscal 2009 Results

Albany, Oregon, July 31, 2008 – Synthetech, Inc. (NZYM.OB) today announced financial results for the first quarter of fiscal 2009, which ended June 30, 2008. Revenue for the quarter was \$4.9 million, an 18% increase compared to revenue of \$4.2 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2008. Operating income for the current quarter was \$314,000, compared to operating income of \$136,000 for the same period last year. Net income for the current quarter was \$295,000, or \$0.02 per share, compared to last year’s first quarter net income of \$119,000, or \$0.01 per share.

International sales, mainly to Europe, were \$2.6 million and \$2.0 million in the first quarters of fiscal 2009 and 2008, respectively. International sales, like all of Synthetech’s revenues, are subject to significant quarterly fluctuations.

Gross margins of 26% for the first quarter of fiscal 2009 were lower than Synthetech normally would expect on revenue of \$4.9 million. Gross margins for the quarter were hindered by: lower than normal margins on certain products which encountered production difficulties in prior quarters; higher than average raw material costs on certain projects; and low margins on material purchased for direct resell.

Synthetech’s cash and cash equivalents were \$217,000 at June 30, 2008, compared to \$1.1 million at March 31, 2008. Synthetech’s working capital was \$4.9 million at June 30, 2008, compared to \$4.4 million at March 31, 2008. In May 2008, Synthetech borrowed \$550,000 to expand its large-scale reactor capacity and to install a distillation column, in order to meet increased customer demand and permit the recycling of certain spent solvents for cost and waste reduction. These capital improvements are expected to be operational in September 2008.

Synthetech, Inc.
Condensed Statements of Operations
(unaudited)

| (in thousands, except per share data) | First Quarter Ended June 30, | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Revenue | \$ 4,917 | \$ 4,172 |
| Cost of revenue | 3,628 | 2,983 |
| Gross income | 1,289 | 1,189 |
| Research and development | 297 | 328 |
| Selling, general and administrative | 678 | 725 |
| Total operating expense | 975 | 1,053 |
| Operating income | 314 | 136 |
| Interest income | 5 | 9 |
| Interest expense | (24) | (26) |
| Income before income taxes | 295 | 119 |
| Income taxes | - | - |
| Net income | \$ 295 | \$ 119 |
| Basic and diluted income per share | \$ 0.02 | \$ 0.01 |

Commenting on the financial results, Dr. Gregory Hahn, President and CEO, stated, “Our revenue line continues to be supported by a variety of promising projects, providing \$4.9 million of revenue in the first quarter of fiscal 2009. Synthetech’s order backlog as of June 30, 2008 was approximately \$6.9 million. We expect that a majority of these customer orders will ship during the second quarter of fiscal 2009, and substantially all of the remainder is scheduled to ship during the second half of fiscal 2009.”

Management anticipates that Synthetech’s revenue will continue to be volatile from period to period. Variability in Synthetech’s level of revenue is based primarily on its participation in large-scale customer projects and the timing of shipments arising from these projects. Synthetech operates in a challenging business environment, characterized by the unpredictable dynamics and life cycle of pharmaceutical projects, which can lead to rapid fluctuations in the mix of projects and revenues. As the uncertainties inherent in drug development projects remain outside of Synthetech’s control, it is difficult to predict the progress, timing and revenue potential of these projects.

About Synthetech

Synthetech, Inc., based in Albany, Oregon, is a fine chemicals company specializing in organic synthesis, biocatalysis and chiral technologies. We develop and manufacture amino acid derivatives, specialty amino acids, peptide fragments, proprietary custom chiral intermediates and specialty resins, primarily for the pharmaceutical industry. Synthetech produces advanced pharmaceutical intermediates in accordance with Current Good Manufacturing Practices (*cGMP*) in compliance with U.S. Food and Drug Administration (*FDA*) regulations. Our products support the development and manufacture of therapeutic peptides and peptidomimetic (peptide-like) small molecule drugs from early stages of a customer’s clinical development through market launch and into commercial production. Synthetech’s products also support the production of chemically based medical devices. Synthetech’s domestic and international customer base includes major pharmaceutical, contract drug synthesis firms, emerging biotechnology (virtual pharmaceutical) and medical device companies. We also supply catalog quantities of specialty amino acids to research institutions, universities and drug discovery firms.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains “forward looking” statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, are forward-looking, including, without limitation, statements regarding: future operating results; market conditions and opportunities; and the timing and amount of shipments; resolution of manufacturing process difficulties. Words such as “believe,” “anticipate,” “expect,” “estimate,” “project,” “will be,” “will continue,” “will likely result,” or words or phrases of similar meanings identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements reflect management’s current expectations, plans or projections and are inherently uncertain and actual results could differ materially from such expectations, plans or projections. Investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this press release. Risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ significantly from management’s expectations include, but are not limited to, the following: Synthetech's limited financial and other resources; the uncertain market for Synthetech's products; potential loss of a significant customer; customer concentration; potential termination or suspension by customers of significant projects or orders; potential period-to-period revenue or expense fluctuations; production factors and timely access to raw materials; industry cost factors and conditions; competition; government regulation; labor disputes; technological changes; and international business risks. Investors are urged to read Synthetech’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008, for a further description of risks and uncertainties related to forward-looking statements made by Synthetech as well as to other aspects of Synthetech's business. Those reports describe, some, but not all of the factors that could cause actual results to differ significantly from

management's expectations. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to Synthetech or which Synthetech currently deems immaterial also may impair its business or operations. Synthetech does not intend to release publicly any revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

MORE INFORMATION: Web site: www.synthetech.com
E-mail: investor@synthetech.com

CONTACT: Gary Weber, CFO
PO Box 646
Albany, Oregon 97321
541 967-6575