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AVENTIS
Form 425
February 17, 2004

Filed by Sanofi-Synthelabo
Pursuant to Rule 135 and Rule 425(b) under the
United States Securities Act of 1933,
as amended, and deemed filed pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b)(2) of the
United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended

Subject Company: Aventis
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Date: February 17, 2004

ON FEBRUARY 16, 2004, THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT WAS PUBLISHED ON
BEHALF OF SANOFI-SYNTHELABO IN FORTUNE (EUROPEAN EDITION).

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WE REFUSE TO ACCEPT THAT
WE CANNOT DEVELOP MEDICINES
FOR TOMORROW JUST BECAUSE OF OUR SIZE.

[Image of young girl looking upward]

Out of every 100,000 molecules screened only one becomes a new drug. Research is a major investment: it takes an average of 12 years and 800 million euros to obtain a medicine. That is why teaming up with Aventis will help us deliver more effective solutions to meet patients' needs. Together, we will harness our complementary skills to create a leading pharmaceutical group (No.1 in Europe and No.3 worldwide) committed to improving healthcare and capable of driving strong, sustainable and profitable growth.

SANOFI-SYNTHELABO'S OFFER TO AVENTIS'S SHAREHOLDERS
BECAUSE HEALTH MATTERS

This advertisement does not constitute an offer to sell, or an offer to purchase, any securities

www.sanofi-synthelabo.com