

MERCK & CO INC
Form DEFA14A
March 16, 2009

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
 Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
 Definitive Proxy Statement
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Merck & Co., Inc.
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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This filing consists of a transcript of a video presentation given by Dick Clark, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Merck & Co., first available to employees on March 15, 2009.

Behind the Merger with Dick Clark

Certainly bringing Merck together with Schering-Plough today is as transformational as the decision in 1953 to take Merck and Sharpe & Dohme and bring them together.

I have every confidence that what we are doing with Merck and Schering-Plough will have the same impact on our company moving forward.

There is no question that this is a great opportunity for Merck. There is so much alignment between the two companies. When you combine these two companies, they will be much more important than the two companies standing by themselves. And the reason for that truly is the alignment around therapeutic areas and research, the alignment of in-line products and the diversified portfolio; the global presence that we have. We also have a great understanding and knowledge of Schering-Plough. Because of the joint venture, we have a strong working relationship with them and it's been very, very successful in the past. Bringing these two great companies together will really allow us to better serve our customers, better serve our patients and better serve our shareholders. This is the right thing for Merck to do and the time to do it is now.

One of the major feedbacks that we heard from the shareholders when we visited with them last week is: how do you bring two large companies together and – while you're bringing them together – how do you make sure that there is no business disruption?

I think an important message for all of us as employees is to remember that we have a 2009 scorecard, we have individual objectives that we need to accomplish, and the best thing you can do to help us make this combination successful is to focus on what you've been doing for 2009 and make Merck successful.

Certainly, when you go through any change, there are always skeptics, there are always employees that are concerned. But you have to have trust that as we went through the Plan to Win we had these major concerns as well, and you can see that coming out of the Plan to Win capabilities that the company now is in a much better position.

I have a great deal of confidence that with Merck employees and Schering-Plough employees we can make this happen.

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Forward-Looking Statements

This communication includes “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements may include, but are not limited to, statements about the benefits of the proposed merger between Merck and Schering-Plough, including future financial and operating results, the combined company’s plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts. Such statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of Merck’s and Schering-Plough’s management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements: the possibility that the expected synergies from the proposed merger of Merck and Schering-Plough will not be realized, or will not be realized within the expected time period, due to, among other things, the impact of pharmaceutical industry regulation and pending legislation that could affect the pharmaceutical industry; the ability to obtain governmental and self-regulatory organization approvals of the merger on the proposed terms and schedule; the actual terms of the financing required for the merger and/or the failure to obtain such financing; the failure of Schering-Plough or Merck stockholders to approve the merger; the risk that the businesses will not be integrated successfully; disruption from the merger making it more difficult to maintain business and operational relationships; the possibility that the merger does not close, including, but not limited to, due to the failure to satisfy the closing conditions; Merck’s and Schering-Plough’s ability to accurately predict future market conditions; dependence on the effectiveness of Merck’s and Schering-Plough’s patents and other protections for innovative products; the risk of new and changing regulation and health policies in the U.S. and internationally and the exposure to litigation and/or regulatory actions. Merck and Schering-Plough undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Additional factors that could cause results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in Merck’s 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K, Schering-Plough’s 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K and each company’s other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) available at the SEC’s Internet site (www.sec.gov).

Additional Information

In connection with the proposed transaction, Schering-Plough will file a registration statement, including a joint proxy statement of Merck and Schering-Plough, with the SEC. Investors are urged to read the registration statement and joint proxy statement (including all amendments and supplements to it) because they will contain important information. Investors may obtain free copies of the registration statement and joint proxy statement when they become available, as well as other filings containing information about Merck and Schering-Plough, without charge, at the SEC’s Internet web site (www.sec.gov). These documents may also be obtained for free from Schering-Plough’s Investor Relations web site (www.schering-plough.com) or by directing a request to Schering-Plough’s Investor Relations at (908) 298-7436. Copies of Merck’s filings may be obtained for free from Merck’s Investor Relations Web Site (www.merck.com) or by directing a request to Merck at Merck’s Office of the Secretary, (908) 423-1000.

Merck and Schering-Plough and their respective directors and executive officers and other members of management and employees are potential participants in the solicitation of proxies from Merck and Schering-Plough shareholders in respect of the proposed transaction.

Information regarding Schering-Plough’s directors and executive officers is available in Schering-Plough’s proxy statement for its 2008 annual meeting of shareholders, filed with the SEC on April 23, 2008, and information regarding Merck’s directors and executive officers is available in Merck’s proxy statement for its 2009 annual meeting

of stockholders, filed with the SEC on March 13, 2009. Additional information regarding the interests of such potential participants in the proposed transaction will be included in the registration statement and joint proxy statement filed with the SEC in connection with the proposed transaction.