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Merger Update

Alliance UniChem and Boots note that Celesio yesterday filed with the Competition Appeal Tribunal an application for review of the OFT's conditional clearance decision of 6 February 2006 in relation to the anticipated acquisition by Boots of Alliance UniChem.

The two companies intend to seek permission to intervene formally in the proceedings in support of the Office of Fair Trading. Both companies remain confident of a satisfactory outcome to the regulatory review process.

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