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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN CO
Form SC TO-C
June 01, 2001

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE TO
(Rule 14d-100)

TENDER OFFER STATEMENT UNDER SECTION 14(d)(1)
OR SECTION 13(e)(1) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
(Name of Subject Company (Issuer))

VIVENDI UNIVERSAL, S.A.
SORAYA MERGER INC.
(Names of Filing Persons (Offerors))

COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE \$1.00 PER SHARE
(including associated rights)
(Title of Class of Securities)

44156010
(CUSIP Number of Class of Securities)

George E. Bushnell, III, Esq.
c/o Vivendi Universal Holding I Corp.
800 Third Avenue, Seventh Floor
New York, New York 10022
Telephone: 212-572-7855
(Name, address and telephone number of person authorized to receive
notices and communications on behalf of filing persons)

Copy to:
Faiza J. Saeed, Esq.
Cravath, Swaine & Moore
825 Eighth Avenue
New York, New York 10019
Telephone: (212) 474-1000

Calculation of Filing Fee:

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| Transaction Valuation* | Amount of Filing Fee |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Not applicable. | Not applicable. |

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*Set forth in the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how

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it was determined.

[X] Check the box if the filing relates solely to preliminary communications made before the commencement of a tender offer.

Check the appropriate boxes to designate any transactions to which this statement relates:

- third-party tender offer subject to Rule 14d-1.
- issuer tender offer subject to Rule 13e-4.
- going-private transaction subject to Rule 13e-3.
- amendment to Schedule 13D under Rule 13d-2.

Check the following box if the filing is a final amendment reporting the results of the tender offer:

The description contained herein is neither an offer to purchase nor a solicitation of an offer to sell shares of Houghton Mifflin Company. At the time the tender offer is commenced, Vivendi Universal will file a Tender Offer Statement and Houghton Mifflin Company will file a Solicitation/Recommendation Statement with respect to the offer. The Tender Offer Statement (including an offer to purchase, a related letter of transmittal and other offer documents) and the Solicitation/Recommendation Statement will contain important information that should be read carefully before any decision is made with respect to the offer.

The offer to purchase, the related letter of transmittal and certain other documents, as well as the Solicitation/Recommendation Statement, will be made available to all shareholders of Houghton Mifflin Company, at no expense to them. The Tender Offer Statement (including an offer to purchase, a related letter of transmittal and other offer documents) and the Solicitation/Recommendation Statement will also be available at no charge at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

[VIVENDI UNIVERSAL LOGO]

VIVENDI UNIVERSAL AGREES TO ACQUIRE
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN IN TRANSACTION VALUED AT \$2.2 BILLION

- VIVENDI UNIVERSAL PUBLISHING (VUP) WILL BECOME NO. 2
- WORLDWIDE IN EDUCATION FIELD
- VUP WILL BE AMONG THE LEADERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION MATERIALS
- VUP TO DIVEST PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION DIVISION

PARIS AND BOSTON, JUNE 1, 2001 - Vivendi Universal (Paris Bourse: EXFP; NYSE: V), announced today that it has agreed with Boston-based Houghton Mifflin Company (NYSE: HTN), a leading U.S. educational publisher, to acquire all of

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the outstanding shares of Houghton Mifflin, pursuant to a cash tender offer at \$60 per share. The Boards of both companies have approved this transaction unanimously.

The acquisition is to be accomplished through a cash tender offer for all of Houghton Mifflin's common stock at a price of \$60 per share. Following completion of the tender offer and necessary approvals, Vivendi Universal would consummate a merger in which all of the remaining Houghton Mifflin shareholders will receive the same price paid in the tender offer in cash. The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and to other customary conditions, including the tender of at least two-thirds of the Houghton Mifflin shares.

Based on a total consideration of approximately \$2.2 billion, which includes the assumption of Houghton Mifflin's average net debt of \$500 million, the offer price represents 1.9 times 2001 estimated revenues of Houghton Mifflin, 7.7 times 2001 estimated EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) and 10.7 times estimated EBITDA after book plate amortization.

With education as a growth sector worldwide, and following more than ten years of consolidation, the education market is now global. This acquisition is consistent with Vivendi Universal's strategic plan, which is on target to make each of its content business units world leaders in their respective fields.

As a result of the acquisition, combined annual sales will total \$2.2 billion, boosting Vivendi Universal Publishing's position worldwide to the No. 2 spot from No. 5 in the education field. Already a leader in France, Spain and Brazil, with a very strong market share throughout Europe and Latin America, with this transaction, VUP will become an education publishing leader in the U.S.

The transaction, which is subject to regulatory approvals, will be financed largely by the divestiture of Vivendi Universal Publishing's Professional Information Division and Free Sheets, following the work councils information and consultation. These businesses are more cyclical than education publishing.

The acquisition will allow Vivendi Universal to undertake immediate synergies in production/logistics and corporate restructuring with Vivendi Universal Publishing's U.S. operations. VUP estimates that those synergies will reach at least \$75 million per year at the EBITDA level before the end of 2002. Thanks to the financing of the transaction, mostly

(more)

through asset sales, the transaction will have no significant impact on Vivendi Universal's balance sheet, and will be accretive for Vivendi Universal shareholders at EDITDA/share level from year one, both before and after synergies. After pro forma synergies, this accretion is over 2%. As a result of the transaction, Vivendi Universal is strengthening its core content businesses, gaining a worldwide leadership position in education.

Commenting on today's announcement, Jean-Marie Messier, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Vivendi Universal, said: "The acquisition of Houghton Mifflin propels Vivendi Universal Publishing to the No. 2 position worldwide in education publishing and significantly enhances its position in the U.S. textbook market."

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Mr. Messier continued, "This strategic acquisition is another step forward for Vivendi Universal to achieve world leadership in key content segments. It will put us in an excellent position to capitalize on the growth of the education sector by leveraging the content and technologies of both companies across all of Vivendi Universal. Our priority is to develop the most attractive and compelling content offering on all devices and platforms for our consumers. We now have worldwide leadership positions in music, film, games, and education. Thanks to the arbitrage within our publishing portfolio, the acquisition will not impact our balance sheet and will be accretive to our shareholders."

"This transaction represents a new and exciting chapter in Houghton Mifflin's history," said Nader F. Darehshori, Houghton Mifflin Company's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. "By combining with Vivendi Universal, we become an integral part of a global publishing powerhouse - a company with international scale, rich content and vast digital and distribution capacity. Financially, this transaction provides immediate value to our shareholders, and, as part of Vivendi Universal's publishing operations, Houghton Mifflin will have the financial resources, talent and tools to further accelerate our own growth in the digitization of our products and services, as well as new channels of distribution for our authors, greater opportunities for our employees, and a broader range of products for our customers. Finally, Vivendi Universal respects our nearly 170-year heritage and great brand names, and have stated their intent to maintain our presence in Boston."

Agnes Touraine, Vice Chairman and CEO of Vivendi Universal Publishing, said, "Education is a growth sector worldwide, driven by rising enrollments and increased government spending. After a decade of consolidation, the education market has now become global. The U.S. is the largest and most dynamic market in the world. Houghton Mifflin presents a tremendous growth opportunity for our company, and I welcome them very warmly. With the acquisition of Houghton Mifflin, VUP will be present in four languages - French, English, Spanish and Portuguese. It will also strengthen prominent local brands, including Houghton Mifflin, Larousse, Anaya, Knowledge Adventure, and will give us a real competitive advantage compared to U.S./U.K.-centric companies. VUP will also have a strong position on as many platforms as possible, including the Internet, publishing and CD- ROM.

"I also would like to extend my strong thanks to and admiration for all the teams of the professional information division that will soon leave our company," she continued. "I would like to say how impressed I am by their tremendous performance and many accomplishments in recent years."

When this transaction is completed, VU Publishing will be focused on three main segments: Games, Education and Literature, and Health. Approximately 48% of VUP's revenues will come from the U.S. and the remainder from Europe and the rest of the world. VUP will also maintain its presence in news and economic publications, with Groupe Express, Groupe Expansion and Groupe Etudiant.

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With consolidated sales in excess of \$1.0 billion, Houghton Mifflin is the fourth largest U.S. educational publisher, and one of the oldest publishing houses founded in Boston in 1832. Houghton Mifflin is a pure play educational publisher (roughly 90% of sales) serving all the components of the market (elementary and secondary schools, supplemental, testing and college) and utilizing multiple platforms (core basal textbooks, supplemental materials,

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assessment, instructional technology). The company also publishes an extensive line of reference works and fiction and non-fiction for adults and young readers, including The Lord of the Rings and provides computer-testing capabilities to the corporate market.

Houghton Mifflin has strong positions in K-12 (70% of sales). It ranks number four in elementary, number three in secondary and testing. Its core business areas include Reading, Math and Language Arts. The company is also the fourth largest college publisher with strong position in the advance placement market.

ABOUT VIVENDI UNIVERSAL

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: The media and communications business is divided into five business segments: Music, Publishing, TV and Film, Telecoms and Internet. The MUSIC business is conducted through Universal Music Group, which produces, markets and distributes recorded music throughout the world in all major genres. Universal Music Group also manufactures, sells and distributes video products in the United States and internationally, and licenses music copyrights in 63 countries worldwide. The PUBLISHING business is Europe's premier publisher of information providing content across multiple platforms, including print, multimedia, on the wired Internet and to PDAs via WAP (Wireless Application Protocol) technology. The Publishing business is a content leader in five core markets: education, games, healthcare information, local services and business and general information. The TV AND FILM business produces and distributes motion picture, television and home video/DVD products worldwide, operates and has ownership interests in a number of cable and pay TV channels, engages in the licensing of merchandising and film property rights and operates theme parks and retail stores around the world. The TELECOMS business provides a broad range of telecommunications services, including mobile and fixed telephony, Internet access and data services and transmission, principally in Europe. The INTERNET business manages the strategic Internet initiatives and new online ventures for Vivendi Universal. Utilizing advanced digital distribution technology, the Internet business develops e-commerce, e-services and thematic portals that offer access to the Internet via a variety of devices, including mobile phones, PDAs, interactive TV and computers. VIVENDI ENVIRONNEMENT, is a 63-percent effectively owned subsidiary of Vivendi Universal, which operates the environmental services business, with operations around the globe. Vivendi Environnement provides environmental management services, including water treatment and system operation, waste management, energy services and power generation, and transportation services, to a wide range of public authorities and industrial, commercial and residential customers.

The Company's corporate website is located at <http://www.vivendiuniversal.com>. The Company's financial website is located at <http://finance.vivendiuniversal.com>.

ABOUT HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN is a leading publisher of textbooks, instructional technology, assessments and other education materials for elementary and secondary schools and colleges. While it has a presence in segments of educational products, it has an exceptionally strong position

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in K-12 (70% of total sales). The company also publishes an extensive line of reference works and fiction and non-fiction for adults and young readers. The company's web site is located at <http://www.hmco.com>.

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This press release contains "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. Actual results may differ materially from the forward-looking statements as a result of a number of risks and uncertainties, many of which are outside our control, including but not limited to: the risk that recently acquired operations will not be integrated successfully; that the synergies expected to be created as a result of recent acquisitions will not materialize; that Vivendi Universal will be unable to further identify, develop and achieve success for new products, services and technologies; that Vivendi Universal will face increased competition and that the effect on pricing, spending, third-party relationships and revenues of such competition will limit or reduce Vivendi Universal's revenue and/or income; that Vivendi Universal will be unable to establish and maintain relationships with commerce, advertising, marketing, technology, and content providers; and that Vivendi Universal will be unable to obtain or retain, upon acceptable terms, the licenses and permits necessary to operate and expand its businesses; as well as the risks described in the documents Vivendi Universal has filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Investors and security holders are urged to read those documents at the Commission's web site at www.sec.gov. Those documents may also be obtained free of charge from Vivendi Universal.

CONTACTS:

VIVENDI UNIVERSAL PUBLISHING
MEDIA RELATIONS:
Paris
Marie- Francoise Martinez
011-33-1-53-53-38-20

VIVENDI UNIVERSAL - CORPORATE
PARIS
Alain Delrieu
011-33-1-71-71-1341

Antoine Lefort
011-33-1-71-71-1180

NEW YORK
Anita Larsen
212-572-1118, or

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN
MEDIA RELATIONS:
Margaret Sherry
617-351-5113

INVESTOR RELATIONS:
Susan E. Hardy
617-351-5114

VIVENDI UNIVERSAL - CORPORATE
INVESTOR RELATIONS:
PARIS
Ariane de Lamaze
011-33-1-71-71-1084

NEW YORK
Eileen McLaughlin

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407-503-0094, or
Mia Carbonell
212-572-7556

212-572-8961

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PROPOSED ACQUISITION
OF HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

IMPORTANT LEGAL DISCLAIMER

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ACQUISITION OF HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

- o VU launches a tender offer on Houghton Mifflin at 60\$ per share for a total consideration of 1.77bn\$ (+ average net debt of 480M\$) and becomes no. 2 worldwide in education
- o Acquisition to be largely refinanced by the disposal of VUP free sheets, trade fairs and professional press businesses

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STRATEGIC RATIONALE

- o Moving from cyclical business to long term steady growth
- o Consolidation of VU strategy on edutainment products
- o Benefiting from the value of synergies
- o VUP now refocused on:
 - o education (edutainment, e-learning): no. 2 worldwide
Euros 2.3bn sales
 - o games: no. 2 worldwide on PC
Euro 0.4bn sales
 - o health: a worldwide leader
Euro 0.4bn sales

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VU CURRENT POSITIONING
IN KEY CONTENT AREAS

- o Consumer focused: edutainment
- o Achieve leadership in key "must have contents"
 - o Music: no. 1 worldwide
 - o Films: no. 2 worldwide
 - o Games: no. 1 worldwide on line and no. 2 on PC
 - o Sports: European leader following alliance with RTL Group and JC Darmon
 - o Education: global player and no. 5 worldwide
- o Focus on content to which VU will add value, by distributing on an international basis and on all platforms to reach a worldwide leadership in all fields

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EDUCATION: A GROWTH BUSINESS

- o A Euros 25bn market worldwide
- o Favorable demographic trends, increased enrollments
- o Increasing political motivation and government spending,
 - o particularly in the US: budget surpluses, World's largest education market (50% of global market)
 - o and Brazil
- o Strong competitive advantage

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EDUCATION GOES DIGITAL

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-
- o Digitalization changes production process: e-production
 - o Increased customization: going from product to services
 - o Increased penetration of computers in schools (93% of US schools) and homes. Trend towards integrated learning systems
 - o Supplemental, testing, remediation

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DIGITAL REVOLUTION DRIVES CONSOLIDATION

-
- o If curriculums are local...
 - o ...technology is global (engine, classroom administration, ILS)
 - o ...so are content databases
 - o Know-how is key

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EDUCATION BECOMING A GLOBAL MARKET

GRAPHIC OMITTED

- US
- o Pearson: no. 1
 - o McGraw-Hill: no. 2
 - o Reed/Harcourt: no. 3
 - o Houghton Mifflin: no. 4

- UK
- o Reed: no. 1
 - o Pearson: no. 2

- BRAZIL
- o VUP: no. 1
 - o Santillana: no. 2

- FRANCE
- o VUP: no. 1
 - o Hachette: no. 2

- OTHER LATIN AMERICA
- o Santillana: no. 1
 - o VUP: no. 2/3

- SPAIN
- o VUP: no. 1
 - o Santillana: no. 2

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VUP IN EDUCATION: #5 WORLDWIDE TODAY

Key worldwide Players 2000 Revenues in
Education and Literature
(million Euros)

VUE Key Metrics

Recent acquisitions
contributions to 2000 sales

Total sales 2000A: Euro 1.2bn
o/w USA: 15%

Europe & RoW 85%

EBITDA 2000A: Europ 0.16bn

[Chart omitted]

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TODAY: VUE HAS IMPRESSIVE POSITIONS

CHART

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VUE HAS STRONG KNOW-HOW ON INTERNET

- o education.com: the only global internet initiative addressing 3 target audiences simultaneously

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- o Core target: parents (caretakers)
 - o direct purchasing
 - o recommendation to children
 - o end-use
- o Secondary target: children
 - o end-use (main target)
 - o recommendation to parents and to other children
- o Complementary target: teachers
 - o recommendation to parents and children
 - o end-use

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN: KEY FACTS

- o Founded in 1832, well established Boston-based company
- o 2001B Sales of \$1.2bn of which 97% in the US
- o EBITDA margin of 25% in 2001B
- o Market capitalization of \$1.3bn
(April 25, 2001, unaffected price)
- o 3,500 employees

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN: 70% OF SALES IN K-12

CHART

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HAS STRONG MARKET POSITIONS IN READING AND MATH...

Houghton Mifflin Market Positioning

Key Strengths

- o Houghton Mifflin products are focused on
 - o Reading
 - o Languages Arts
 - o Maths
 - o These 3 disciplines account for 75% of the elementary market
 - o 60-65% of Houghton Mifflin K-12 sales are derived from Reading and Languages Arts
 - o 15% of Houghton Mifflin K-12 sales are derived from Maths
- o #4 player in the K-12 US market
 - o #1 in K 6/8 in Reading, Language Arts and Math
 - o #1 in K6/12 in Math, History, World Languages, #2 in Language Arts
 - o # 4 in K-12 test market, high growth and profitable activity

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN ALSO HAS STRONG POSITIONS IN ASSESSMENT

- o # 4 in K-12 test market (Riverside), high growth and profitable activity
- o Well known and respected K-12 group clinical testing brands
- o Ability to deliver assessment content and information in both printed and electronics formats
- o A 900M\$ market (group and clinical assessment) that is growing at 7-10% annually
- o Increasing State testing programs (federal and state legislation requiring greater accountability for ignored student performance)
- o Growth areas: custom states CRT, on-line assessment, interactive reporting and data aggregation on the Internet with links to curriculum content

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ALSO PRESENT IN COLLEGE AND TRADE

- o Profitable and balanced College portfolio (2001B sales of \$175M or 15% of total revenues)
 - o no. 1 in the growing Advanced Placement market
 - o focus on 18 of the 35 disciplines in college curriculum
- o Strong and profitable Trade and Reference division (2001B sales of \$100M or 9% of total revenues)
 - o recognized quality in inprints
 - o high authors' royalty
 - o focus on juvenile (40% of sales), dictionaries (19% of sales) and adult fiction (31% of sales)

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STRONG PROFITABILITY

| M\$ | Key Financials | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--|
| | 2000A | 2001B (adoption years) |
| Revenues | 1,028 | 1,159 |
| % growth | 8.2% | >10% |
| EBITDA stand-alone | 244 | |
| % Margin | 25.0% | ~25% -- '01 growth driven by adoption '02 driven by synergies |
| EBITDA after book plate amort. | 191 | |
| % Margin | 18.6% | ~18% |
| EBITA | 174 | |
| % Margin | 16.9% | ~16% |
| Capex | (23) | |
| Cash Earnings | 95 | |
| Shareholder's Equity | 413 | |

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Net Financial Debt 423
Goodwill 431

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COSTS SYNERGIES

- o The acquisition would generate immediate cost synergies of circa \$40M in:
 - o production (paper purchases, printing and binding) and logistics (distribution, freight and transport): ~ \$20M
 - o corporate restructuring of US operations (\$20M)
 - o G&A (Houghton Mifflin's corporate overheads)

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REVENUES AND TECHNOLOGY SYNERGIES

- o Revenues synergies resulting from the combination of VUP and Houghton Mifflin (digitalization, image data bank, content combination and international)
 - o Technology, internet-related costs
- > Total synergies of \$75M at the EBITDA level
- > Completed over a 18-month period

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OFFERED PRICE

- o Acquisition of all Houghton Mifflin outstanding common shares at a price of \$60 per share

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| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Number of share outstanding (1): | 29.5 million |
| Price per share: | 60\$ |
| ----- | |
| CONSIDERATION | 1.768 M\$ |
| ----- | |
| Avg. Net Debt | 480 M\$ |
| ----- | |
| ENTERPRISE VALUE: | 2,248 M\$ |

(1) Fully diluted treasury shares method

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PRICE BENCHMARK

- o TOTAL CONSIDERATION OF \$2.2BN:
 - = 1.9x 2001e sales
 - = 7.7x 2001e EBITDA before synergies
 - = 10.7x 2001e EBITDA post book plate amortization before synergies
- o SYNERGIES REPRESENT 25% OF 2001 EBITDA
- o PUBLIC COMPANIES BENCHMARK:

| | SALES | EBITDA PRE-PUB | EBITDA POST-PUB |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|
| o McGraw Hill (2001) | 3.0x | 11.0x | 13.5x |
| o John Wiley (2001) | 2.0x | 8.2x | 9.9x |
- o RECENT TRANSACTIONS:

| | | |
|--------------------------|------|-------|
| o Harcourt (LTM) | 2.4x | 12.7x |
| o Simon & Schuster (LTM) | 2.4x | 14.4x |

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ACQUISITION FINANCED BY DISPOSALS

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- o Most significant parts of VUP Information to be disposed of:

| (Euro M) | 2001 Sales Estimated | 2001 EBITDA Estimated |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Trade Magazines and Trade Shows | 600 | 87 |
| Free Sheets | 370 | 35 |

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PROPOSED ACQUISITION

OF HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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PROPOSED ACQUISITION
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ACQUISITION OF HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN: 70% OF SALES IN K-12

| Segments | Houghton Mifflin Divisions | Activities |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| K-12 2001B: \$850M | School Division McDougal Littell Great Source Sunburst Technology Corp. Riverside Publishing Incl. Virtual Learning Technologies Classwell | K-6/8 textbooks and ancil Grades 6-12 textbooks and K-12 Supplementals K-12 Software & Video Testing & Assessment Online testing Online resources for K-12 |
| Higher Education 2001B: \$175M | College Division | Textbooks and ancillary |
| Other 2001B: \$135M | Trade & Reference Division Computer Adaptive Technologies | Adult & kids literature a Adult online testing for |

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HAS STRONG MARKET POSITIONS IN READING AND MATH...

Houghton Mifflin Market Positioning

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 - o #1 in K6/12 in Math, History, World Languages, #2 in Language Arts
 - o # 4 in K-12 test market, high growth and profitable activity

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN ALSO HAS STRONG POSITIONS IN ASSESSMENT

- o # 4 in K-12 test market (Riverside), high growth and profitable activity
 - o Well known and respected K-12 group clinical testing brands
 - o Ability to deliver assessment content and information in both printed and electronics formats

[Graphics omitted]

| | | |
|-------|---------------------|----------------|
| The | Stanford | |
| Iowa | Binet | Assess 2 Learn |
| Tests | Intelligence Scales | |

- o A \$900M market (group and clinical assessment) that is growing at 7-10% annually
- o Increasing State testing programs (federal and state legislation requiring greater accountability for ignored student performance)
- o Growth areas: custom states CRT, on-line assessment, interactive reporting and data aggregation on the Internet with links to

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curriculum content

ALSO PRESENT IN COLLEGE AND TRADE

- o Profitable and balanced College portfolio (2001B sales of \$175M or 15% of total revenues)
 - o No.1 in the growing Advanced Placement market
 - o Focus on 18 of the 35 disciplines in college curriculum
- o Strong and profitable Trade and Reference division (2001B sales of \$100M or 9% of total revenues)
 - o Recognized quality in inprints
 - o High authors' loyalty
 - o Focus on juvenile (40% of sales), dictionaries (19% of sales) and adult fiction (31% of sales)

[Graphics omitted]

OFFERED PRICE

- o Acquisition of all Houghton Mifflin outstanding common shares at a price of \$60 per share

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Number of share outstanding (1): | 29.5 million |
| Price per share: | \$60 |
| | ----- |
| CONSIDERATION | \$1.768 M |
| | |
| Avg. Net Debt | \$480 M |
| | ----- |
| ENTERPRISE VALUE: | \$2,248 M |

- (1) Fully diluted treasury shares method

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PRICE BENCHMARK

- o Total consideration of \$2.2bn:
 - = 1.9x 2001e sales
 - = 7.7x 2001e EBITDA before synergies
 - = 10.7x 2001e EBITDA post book plate amortization before synergies
- o Synergies represent 25% of 2001 EBITDA

| | Sales | EBITDA pre-pub | EBITDA post-pub |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|
| o Public companies benchmark: | | | |
| o McGraw Hill (2001) | 3.0x | 11.0x | 13.5x |
| o John Wiley (2001) | 2.0x | 8.2x | 9.9x |
| o Recent transactions: | | | |
| o Harcourt (LTM) | 2.4x | | 12.7x |
| o Simon & Schuster (LTM) | 2.4x | | 14.4x |

STRONG PROFITABILITY

| | Key Financials | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--|
| M\$ | 2000A | 2001B (adoption years) |
| Revenues | 1,028 | 1,159 |
| % growth | 8.2% | >10% |
| EBITDA stand-alone | 244 | |
| % Margin | 25.0% | ~25% -- '01 growth driven by adoption '02 driven by synergies |
| EBITDA after book plate amort. | 191 | |
| % Margin | 18.6% | ~18% |

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| | | |
|----------------------|-------|------|
| EBITA | 174 | |
| % Margin | 16.9% | ~16% |
| Capex | (23) | |
| Cash Earnings | 95 | |
| Shareholder's Equity | 413 | |
| Net Financial Debt | 423 | |
| Goodwill | 431 | |

COSTS SYNERGIES

-
- o The acquisition would generate immediate cost synergies of circa \$40M in:
 - o Production (paper purchases, printing and binding) and logistics (distribution, freight and transport): ~ \$20M
 - o Corporate restructuring of US operations (\$20M)
 - o G&A (Houghton Mifflin's corporate overheads)
-

REVENUES AND TECHNOLOGY SYNERGIES

-
- o Revenues synergies resulting from the combination of VUP and Houghton Mifflin (digitalization, image data bank, content combination and international)
 - o Technology, internet-related costs
 - o Total synergies of \$75M at the EBITDA level
 - o Completed over a 18-month period
-

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ACQUISITION FINANCED BY DISPOSALS

- o Most significant parts of VUP Information to be disposed of:

| (Euro M) | 2001 Sales Estimated | 2001 EBIDTA Estimated |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Trade Magazines and Trade Shows | 600 | 87 |
| Free Sheets | 370 | 35 |

STRATEGIC RATIONALE

- o Moving from cyclical business to long term steady growth
 - o Consolidation of VU strategy on edutainment products
 - o Benefiting from the value of synergies
 - o VUP now refocused on:
 - o Education (edutainment, e-learning): no.2 worldwide
Euros 2.3bn sales
 - o Games: no.2 worldwide on PC
Euro 0.4bn sales
 - o Health: a worldwide leader
Euro 0.4bn sales
-

VU CURRENT POSITIONING IN KEY CONTENT AREAS

- o Consumer focused: edutainment
- o Achieve leadership in key "must have contents"
 - o Music: no.1 worldwide
 - o Films: no.1 worldwide

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- o Games: no.1 worldwide on line and no.2 on PC
- o Sports: European leader following alliance with RTL Group and JC Darmon
- o Education: global player and no.5 worldwide
- o Focus on content to which VU will add value, by distributing on an international basis and on all platforms to reach a worldwide leadership in all fields

VIVENDI
UNIVERSAL

PROPOSED ACQUISITION
OF HOUGHTON MIFFLIN