

June 9, 2000

ICON ACQUIRES U.S. CENTRAL CLINICAL LABORATORY

Dublin, Ireland, June 9, 2000 - ICON plc (NASDAQ: ICLR), a global full service clinical research organisation today announced the acquisition of UCT (U.S.), Inc, ("UCT") a Farmingdale, New York based company which provides central laboratory services for clinical trials to the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

The UCT operations, which had net revenues of almost \$10 million for the year ended December 31, 1999, and which is currently supporting approx. 100 clinical trials, will be merged with ICON's existing central laboratory in Dublin, Ireland. The combined business, called ICON Laboratories, will provide global laboratory services to its clients.

ICON has acquired UCT for an initial consideration of \$2 million in cash and a capital investment of an additional \$2 million. Further consideration of up to \$18 million may be payable if UCT meets certain earnings targets over the next three years. ICON has also entered into employment agreements with the three senior managers of UCT. The transaction is expected to be neutral to ICON's earnings per share for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2001.

"The purchase of UCT transforms ICON's European central laboratory into a global player with the ability to provide service across Europe, the Middle East, North and South America and Asia Pacific " said Edward Caffrey, President of ICON Laboratories. " We plan to grow our sales, in a market estimated to be in excess of \$600 million annually, by capitalising on more than ten years of operational experience on both sides of the Atlantic, and by winning increased business from an already broad client base.

"We are excited to be joining such a quality focused company as ICON", said UCT Chief Executive, Robert Scott-Edwards." With its long experience in the laboratory business, its broad client base and its financial stability, we believe it is the ideal partner to help us continue to provide a high level of service to our clients and to further develop and grow".

"This acquisition and the creation of ICON Laboratories as a division of ICON, is an important step in ICON's strategic development", said ICON CEO, Dr John Climax. " It further broadens the scale and range of the services we offer in the clinical development market".

ICON provides contract clinical research services to the pharmaceutical industry world-wide. The company now has 18 offices in 11 countries and, following this acquisition, has over 1000 employees world-wide, over half of whom are located in the US. From these locations, the company is managing clinical projects in over 30 countries on four continents.

Information in this press release contains "forward looking statements". These statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially including, without limitation, actual operating performance, the ability to maintain large client contracts or enter into new contracts, the ability to manage the opening of new offices, and the ability to maintain client relationships. Additional factors that could cause actual results to differ materially are discussed in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including its Forms 20-F, F-1 and S-8.

Source: ICON plc

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