

February 16, 2000

ICON ACQUIRES ANIMAL HEALTH CRO IN FRANCE

Dublin, Ireland, February 16, 2000 - Speaking at the Warburg Dillon Read Global Healthcare Services Conference in New York today, Dr John Climax, the CEO of ICON announced that ICON had made its third acquisition in recent weeks with the purchase of Protocole S.A.R.L., a French Animal Health CRO.

"Having started an animal health CRO business in the US in 1998 which has grown significantly and will generate over \$2 million in revenues in our current fiscal year, the acquisition of Protocole means that we can now provide this service in Europe in addition to the US", said Dr Climax. "We see exciting growth opportunities developing in this area, as we are now well positioned to service multinational projects in the veterinary field."

Based in Paris, Protocole will be integrated into ICON's existing Paris office.

ICON provides contract clinical research services to the pharmaceutical industry world-wide. The company currently has 17 offices in 11 countries and over 900 employees world-wide, over half of whom are located in the US. From these locations, the company is managing projects in over 30 countries on four continents.

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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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