

PRESS RELEASE

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ICON Clinical Research establishes office in Chennai, India

Company aims to enhance its data management and biometrics services to pharma industry clients

Dublin, Ireland, January 31, 2005 - With the goal of providing high-quality, cost-effective data management and biometrics services to its clients, ICON Clinical Research (a division of ICON plc) has established an office in Chennai (formerly Madras), India.

According to ICON CEO Peter Gray, "This move will give ICON access to a large talent pool that includes many highly-educated and experienced data management professionals. It also acknowledges the increasing importance of India as a centre for technological expertise and clinical research."

In addition to hiring and training staff for its new office, ICON also acquired a Chennai-based data management company, Biomines Research Solutions. Biomines was founded in 2002 by SivaKumar Subramanian and Dilli Babu Shunmugam, both of whom have been retained by ICON. Sivakumar will lead and manage ICON's new office in India, and prior to co-founding Biomines worked in the United States for a number of pharmaceutical companies, including Sandoz, Novartis and Ciba Geigy. Prior to co-founding Biomines, Dilli Babu worked in biomedical engineering and business development for pharmaceutical and health care companies based in Israel, Switzerland, the United States and Japan.

ICON's new office, which was officially opened on January 16, 2005 is located at the Ispahani Centre in Nungambakkam, a fast-growing part of Chennai that is home to many multi-national corporations. Present at the opening were Dr. Malcolm Burgess, Senior Vice President, Global Data Management and Biometrics, and Pam Howard, Vice President, Data Management and Biometrics, ICON Europe and Rest of World.

According to Dr. Burgess, ICON India opens its doors as a fully-operational ICON office featuring state-of-the-art technology that will enable ICON to provide "follow the sun" data processing for clients with time-critical studies.

In addition to providing data management and biometrics services, ICON's Chennai office has also recruited several clinical research associates to support ICON's growing clinical research activities in India.

ICON Clinical Research India is located on the 7th floor at Nos. 123-124, Ispahani Centre, Uttamar Gandhi Salai, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 034.

ICON a full service contract research organization providing a comprehensive range of clinical services in Phase I-IV clinical research studies to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and device industries. With more than 37 offices in 23 countries and over 2,600 employees worldwide, ICON has the infrastructure necessary to support the many global mega trials it is currently conducting, but remains flexible enough to provide an individual, highly personalized service for locally managed projects.

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