

July 28, 1998

ICON OPENS OFFICE IN PARIS, FRANCE (NASDAQ:ICLRY)

Dublin, Ireland, July 28, 1998 - ICON plc (NASDAQ: ICLRY), a global full service clinical research organisation, headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, today announced the opening of a new office in Paris, France. This office is ICON's fourth facility in Europe and tenth worldwide.

From its present European offices ICON manages clinical studies in over 20 countries and provides data management and central laboratory services to the entire region. The new office will enable ICON to strengthen its relationship with the French pharmaceutical industry, in addition to supporting multinational studies across Europe.

"Establishing an office in France has always been an important strategic target for us." said Dr. Ronan Lambe, Chairman of ICON plc, "We believe that this office will enable us to further penetrate the French pharmaceutical market and we will be targeting our business development efforts in this area over the coming months. The establishment of our French office is tangible evidence of our commitment to extending our geographic reach to match the global needs of the pharmaceutical industry"

ICON's Paris office is located at 20 rue de Troyon, 92310 Sevres and will be managed by Dr. Jean-Claude Albrecht (Tel: +33 1 46296500, Fax: +33 1 46296501). Dr. Albrecht has an MBA from Duke University and Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Paris. He has had 12 years experience in the French pharmaceutical and CRO industries.

ICON provides contract clinical research services to the global pharmaceutical industry. The company currently has 10 offices in 7 countries and approximately 500 employees worldwide.

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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 recent filings with the Securities and Exchange

Commission, including its Forms F-1 and S-8

Source: ICON plc

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