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Sonic Healthcare to raise US\$250 million of long term debt funding

Sonic Healthcare Limited (SHL.AX) is pleased to announce that it has priced US\$250 million of notes in the United States private placement market. Closing of the transaction is expected in January 2011, after final investor due diligence and documentation is complete.

Proceeds of the note offer will be used to repay existing bank debt and provide funding for future growth. The notes, with a ten year tenor, will also significantly lengthen Sonic's debt maturity profile. The notes will have a fixed coupon of 5.1% (US Treasuries plus 215 bps).

Chris Wilks, Sonic's Finance Director and Chief Financial Officer said "We are delighted with the success of our second issue into this market. The transaction has been well over-subscribed, with strong support from both existing and new investors to Sonic. This market will continue to be an attractive source of funding in the future, as Sonic continues its growth strategies."

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