



MEDIA RELEASE – 28 AUGUST 2009

**FINANCIAL RESULTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
30 JUNE 2009**

**1. Highlights**

<b>Ordinary earnings:*</b>		<b>Increase on previous year</b>
Revenue	\$3,014M	27%
EBITDA	\$579M	21%
Net Profit	\$315M	29%
EPS (diluted)	85.2¢	16%
Cashflow from operations	\$442M	33%

- Out-performed both revenue and EPS growth guidance.
- Significant market share gains in Australian Pathology contributing to 9% organic revenue growth.
- Market share gains through strong organic growth in the USA, Germany and the UK.
- Strong margin expansion in key pathology operations.
- German and US synergies on track and driving margin growth.
- Successful equity raising, strong cash flow and new debt facilities providing \$775M of headroom for future acquisitions.

\*Adjusted for non-recurring items.

**2. Dividends**

- Final Dividend 35¢, 35% franked – total dividends for the year increased 10%.
- Record date – 14 September 2009.
- Payment date – 28 September 2009.
- Dividend reinvestment plan suspended.

**3. 2010 Guidance**

Positive outlook with net profit expected to grow by 10-15% in 2010 (over 2009 of \$315M), depending on currency exchange rates (2009 rates assumed), interest rate movements and excluding any acquisitions other than those already announced.

#### 4. Commentary on Results

Sonic Healthcare today reported a record net profit of \$315 Million (excluding non-recurring items) for the year to 30 June 2009, an increase of 29% over the comparative period. The result was achieved on revenues of \$3,014 Million, 27% higher than in the prior year.

Sonic's CEO and Managing Director, Dr Colin Goldschmidt, said: "Sonic Healthcare has delivered an exceptionally strong operating result for the 2009 year. We continue to grow strongly in the pathology markets of Australia, Europe and the USA, where our services and technologies are of the highest international standards. Our results reflect the success of our model, which is aimed at optimal service and efficiency levels. Sonic's medical leadership philosophy, federation structure and focus on personalised service are fundamental to the company's culture and I congratulate and thank Sonic's pathologists, radiologists, managers and staff for their talent and hard work, which continue to drive our positioning as one of the top diagnostic companies in the world. Our result shows that the business is resilient against global economic conditions and having maintained a strong balance sheet through the credit crisis, we are now set for further expansion as markets improve."

Sonic's Board has declared a final dividend of 35 cents per share (35% franked), bringing the total for the year to 57 cents per share, a 10% increase over the previous year.

Key milestones of the last year include:

- The synergistic acquisitions of the Labor 28 Group (Berlin, Germany, settled on 1 July 2008) and GLP Medical Group (Hamburg, Germany, settled on 1 September 2008).
- The synergistic acquisition on 1 July 2008 of the Swiss Laboratory Prof. Krech Group, and subsequent merger into the Medica Laboratory Group.
- The acquisition on 2 September 2008 of Clinical Laboratories of Hawaii, the leading medical laboratory group in Hawaii.
- Acquisition of the balance of Independent Practitioner Network via a Scheme of Arrangement implemented on 30 September 2008.
- Announcement after year-end of the synergistic acquisitions of Labor Lademannbogen (Hamburg, Germany), Axiom Laboratories (Tampa, Florida, USA) and Piedmont Medical Laboratory (Winchester, Virginia, USA).
- Successful completion in late 2008 of an institutional private placement and Shareholder Purchase Plan, raising A\$469M of new capital which set Sonic's balance sheet for future growth.
- Successful establishment in July 2008 of an additional €84 Million 3 year term bank debt facility with two of the syndicate members in Sonic's senior syndicated bank debt facility.
- Approvals obtained after year-end for additional bank debt facilities totalling ~A\$262M, denominated in USD and Euro, and with tenors of three and five years.
- Seamless implementation of Sonic's proprietary Apollo Laboratory Information System into Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology's central laboratory in Macquarie Park, Sydney, the largest Apollo implementation to date. More recently, the first implementation of Apollo in the USA was successfully completed in Sonic's Southeast division, headquartered in Orlando, Florida. The Apollo system will now be rolled out more broadly in the USA.

**Dr Colin Goldschmidt**  
CEO and Managing Director  
Sonic Healthcare Limited  
Ph: +61 2 9855 5333  
Fax: +61 2 9878 5066

*For further information regarding the result, please refer to Dr Goldschmidt's PowerPoint Presentation and to Sonic's Appendix 4E Preliminary Final Report, both of which will be posted on the Sonic Healthcare website by 10.00am, 28 August 2009 ([www.sonichealthcare.com](http://www.sonichealthcare.com)).*

### **Forward-looking statements**

*This media release may include forward-looking statements about our financial results, guidance and business prospects that may involve risks and uncertainties, many of which are outside the control of Sonic Healthcare. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date that they are made and which reflect management's current estimates, projections, expectations or beliefs and which involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results and outcomes to be materially different. Risks and uncertainties that may affect the future results of the company include, but are not limited to, adverse decisions by Governments and healthcare regulators, changes in the competitive environment and billing policies, lawsuits, loss of contracts and unexpected growth in costs and expenses. The statements being made in this presentation do not constitute an offer to sell, or solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities of Sonic Healthcare. No representation, warranty or assurance (express or implied) is given or made in relation to any forward-looking statement by any person (including Sonic Healthcare). In particular, no representation, warranty or assurance (express or implied) is given in relation to any underlying assumption or that any forward-looking statement will be achieved. Actual future events may vary materially from the forward-looking statements and the assumptions on which the forward-looking statements are based. Given these uncertainties, readers are cautioned to not place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements.*