



**SONIC
HEALTHCARE
LIMITED**

Thursday, April 10, 2008

**SONIC HEALTHCARE/THE DOCTORS LABORATORY
UK TENDER FOR PATHOLOGY SERVICES**

Sonic Healthcare is pleased to release the following announcement concerning its wholly-owned UK subsidiary, The Doctors Laboratory (TDL).

In August 2006 the Bedford Hospital NHS Trust, East & North Hertfordshire NHS Trust and West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trusts issued a Pathology Tender Descriptive Document to provide a modern and responsive pathology service to five NHS hospitals and three Primary Care Trusts, geographically located in an area about twenty five miles north of London. This is the largest NHS pathology services contract to be tendered to date in the UK which seeks to develop an innovative service model that separates rapid response and core laboratory requirements, to provide a modern, sustainable and clinically led service over a 10-year contractual arrangement.

Over 10 national and international suppliers responded to this tender, and a shortlist of bidders was selected to go forward to a Competitive Dialogue process. In response to this Tender, the Trusts have recently issued a communication note naming The Doctors Laboratory/Sonic Healthcare as the only bidder to go forward to the next stage.

The next stage of the process includes further discussion on:

- Pathology Service Agreements for each Trust and the three PCTs
- Financial closure
- Service model requirements across all pathology disciplines
- Corporate structure for the joint venture
- Information Management & Technology solution
- Workforce requirements

Sonic Healthcare wishes to note that this announcement indicates an interim position, with further discussions with the NHS Trusts and other parties to follow. If these discussions are completed successfully, contractual and financial close is expected in September 2008.

The Doctors Laboratory and Sonic Healthcare are pleased to have the opportunity to continue their tradition of working closely with the NHS in the delivery of pathology services in the UK.

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