



**SONIC
HEALTHCARE
LIMITED**

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SONIC HEALTHCARE TO ACQUIRE THE BIOSCIENTIA HEALTHCARE GROUP IN GERMANY

Sonic Healthcare Limited ("Sonic", SHL.AX) is pleased to announce that it has signed an agreement to acquire 100% of the Bioscientia Healthcare Group ("Bioscientia") based in Ingelheim near Frankfurt, Germany.

Bioscientia is a leading German laboratory group with national presence and a well-established reputation for medical excellence and quality leadership. The company was founded in 1970 as a subsidiary of pharmaceutical group Boehringer Ingelheim and later spun-out by way of a management buy-out in 1995. The group employs over 1,000 staff and has annual revenues in the order of EUR 125 million. Bioscientia's senior management team will continue to lead the business post acquisition.

Over the past years, Bioscientia has created a highly efficient network of 15 regional laboratories throughout Germany and also operates several local laboratories within hospital locations. Its modern, central facility in Ingelheim serves as a full-service clinical reference laboratory, offering a broad range of tests to General Practitioners, Specialists, hospitals and other customers. As the first laboratory in Europe to achieve accreditation by the U.S. College of American Pathologists (CAP) in 1987, Bioscientia also provides laboratory services to international customers, which include hospitals in the Middle East. Further information about Bioscientia can be found at www.bioscientia.com.

The purchase price for Bioscientia is based on an enterprise value of EUR 190 million and represents a prospective EBITDA multiple of approximately 9.7 times. The acquisition will be immediately earnings per share accretive and will be funded initially by a bridge debt facility in Euros. Sonic is also considering the possibility of a capital raising which may include an offer to all shareholders. Settlement is conditional upon German anti-trust approval and is expected to take place by October 2007.

Sonic Healthcare's CEO and Managing Director Dr Colin Goldschmidt said: "The acquisition of Bioscientia represents an exciting and very significant step forward in the expansion of Sonic's global network of laboratories. As one of Europe's largest and most respected laboratories, Bioscientia will add critical mass and enormous value to Sonic, as well as provide the potential for significant synergy within the German laboratory market. Important common ground exists between our two companies, particularly in the areas of culture, values and operational excellence. Bioscientia's outstanding reputation is a tribute to the incumbent management team and we are delighted that Dr Markus Nauck and his executive team will continue to lead the Bioscientia group into the future. Professor Bernd Heicke will continue in his role as Chairman of the Bioscientia Board. We look forward to working with the entire Bioscientia team to further strengthen and improve our operations in Germany and in Europe and to promote our vision for collaborative global laboratory services. I wish to take this opportunity to warmly welcome all Bioscientia staff to Sonic Healthcare's world-wide team of people."

Dr Markus Nauck, CEO of Bioscientia said: “We are most enthusiastic to be joining with the Sonic Healthcare group. Bioscientia and Sonic are companies with similar business philosophies and strategic objectives and we look forward to joining with a like-minded organisation with broad international laboratory operations. We have an experienced and energetic management team who, together with our entire team of staff, are keen to join with Sonic Healthcare, where we believe we can make a positive contribution to the group’s future successes. The partnership with Sonic Healthcare provides an excellent basis for further expanding our personalised laboratory service to the advantage of our customers and their patients.”

For further information regarding this announcement please contact:

Dr. Colin Goldschmidt
CEO and Managing Director,
Sonic Healthcare Limited
www.sonichealthcare.com

or

Mr. Paul Alexander
Company Secretary,
Sonic Healthcare Limited
www.sonichealthcare.com

Telephone +61 2 9855 5333
Facsimile: +61 2 9878 5066
Email: colgold@msn.com.au

+61 2 9855 5404
+61 2 9878 5066
pjalex@ozemail.com.au