



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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NEW BUSINESS VENTURE FOR WESTLAKES

As part of its mission to bring new higher education and business opportunities into West Cumbria, Westlakes Research Institute (WRI) are pleased to announce the formation of an exciting new venture following a period of collaboration with a Swiss Contract Research Organisation, PharmaPart AG.

PharmaPart Westlakes is the result of that collaboration bringing together the data management and mathematical modelling/simulation capabilities of WRI and the bio-statistics capabilities of PharmaPart AG. It will offer pharmaceutical companies a completely integrated service in support of Clinical Trials of new medicines and medical devices.

The Joint Venture has already won contracts from several major pharmaceutical companies working on Clinical Trials across Europe and the rest of the world. Success in obtaining new business has resulted in an order book value of £300k and the need to expand the Data Management Unit at Westlakes from 4 to 8 bringing the total number involved to 12. Technical Director Tony Riddell said, "The new company provides an exciting opportunity for Westlakes to combine forces with a successful European Contract Research Organisation. The joint venture allows us to bring a new business opportunity into the area not just benefiting industry, but the local community through the

provision of quality jobs now, and if things continue to grow at the rate they are, the creation of new ones in the future”.

...ENDS...

Note for the Editor

Clinical Trials are the process whereby new treatments are tested on volunteers to prove that they are both safe and effective. They must be conducted before the regulatory authorities will licence a treatment for general use.

A recent report has estimated that the value of the Clinical Trials contract research market is currently \$1.7 billion a year, in western Europe alone, and that this is expected to double within the next 5 years.

PharmaPart AG, which is based in Zurich, Switzerland, also has a presence in Germany, Italy and the UK. They provide pharmaceutical companies with Clinical Research Associates to monitor clinical trials to ensure that they are conducted properly. More recently, they have established a bio-statistics group in Stirling, Scotland, to analyse the results of clinical trials for pharmaceutical companies.

Westlakes Research Institute (WRI), based on the Westlakes Science and Technology Park near Whitehaven, undertakes a broad range of academic and commercial work in the areas of environmental, health and social sciences. As a result of many years' involvement in epidemiological research, WRI has extensive experience in the management of medical data and mathematical modelling/simulation of biological systems.

Photograph

The photograph shows:

On the left, Dr Stephan Henauer, Chairman, PharmaPart AG and on the right, Dr John Lackie, Principal and Chief Executive Officer, Westlakes Research Institute, following the Official signing of the Joint Venture agreement.

