

Press  
Release

**ACRONET**

## **ACRONET and ICON Sign Alliance Agreement in Japan**

### ***Alliance Strengthens Geographic Coverage for both CROs***

**Tokyo, Japan, April 21, 2011 – ACRONET Corporation**, one of Japan's largest CROs and ICON plc, (NASDAQ: ICLR; ISIN:IE0005711209), a global provider of outsourced development services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries, today announced they have signed an alliance agreement. Through the agreement, ICON and ACRONET will collaborate to offer global and Japanese pharmaceutical clients a full range of clinical development capabilities to manage trials on a regional or global basis.

Commenting on the alliance, Shogo Nakamori, ACRONET's President & CEO, said, "The number of global clinical trials involving the triad regions of US, EU and Japan has increased gradually in recent years and this trend will continue to accelerate. This is one of the challenging areas for the Japanese pharmaceutical industry and ACRONET is now ready to contribute and support the above challenging areas through this alliance with ICON."

Alan Morgan, ICON's Group President, Clinical Research Services, said, "Japan is an important centre for clinical research and ICON has a well established presence there. Recent changes in the regulatory landscape mean that an increasing number of Japanese based pharmaceutical companies are looking to run development projects on both a domestic and pan regional basis. The alliance between ICON and ACRONET will benefit clients, who can be assured of a wider range of quality drug development services alongside truly global expertise."

ICON is one of the leading providers of development services in APAC and employs around 1000 staff in the wider Asia-Pacific region.

#### **About ACRONET Corporation**

ACRONET, a member of ITOCHU group (100% subsidiary), the forerunner as a biostatistics and data management service provider in Japan, provides broad range of clinical development services including clinical monitoring, data management and statistical analysis. Moreover, the company has recently established the framework to support clinical development in China.

Further information is available at <http://www.acronet.jp/en/>

**About ICON plc**

ICON plc is a global provider of outsourced development services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries. The Company specialises in the strategic development, management and analysis of programs that support clinical development - from compound selection to Phase I-IV clinical studies. ICON currently has around 7,800 employees, operating from 77 locations in 39 countries.

Further information is available at [www.iconplc.com](http://www.iconplc.com)