



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QCTN – recognised internationally as a stepping-stone for world-wide clinical drug development

At the AusBiotech Conference last week, Queensland Clinical Trials Network Inc. (QCTN) demonstrated how they are further developing international alliances through a MOU signing with the Korean Health Industry Development Institute (KHIDI).

'This is great news as it will act as a conduit to continue to promote the industry throughout Australia and Korea,' said QCTN CEO Mr Mario Pennisi.

'It also demonstrates how important it is for QCTN and its members to work together with the available international infrastructure to build on the world-class infrastructure and reputation that the service providers in Queensland enjoy,' he continued.

QCTN and several members attended the 2007 AusBiotech Convention. The convention made national news with policy announcements, innovative exhibitors and keynotes from industry leaders and advocates including one address from the U.S. Senator, Edward M. Kennedy, which was proudly sponsored by QCTN.

Mr Pennisi was very pleased to find that with the high profile of the QCTN presence, many of the AusBiotech delegates see clinical trials in Australia, and QCTN as one in the same.

'Our efforts to have international stakeholders recognise Australia as a destination for undertaking clinical research are now starting to pay real dividends, and were very honoured to sign an MOU with KHIDI'.

Of great interest to QCTN is KHIDI's strategy to increase the competitiveness and attractiveness of the clinical trials industry by implementing 15 (currently nine) regional clinical trial centres across Korea supported by a dedicated governance structure and common infrastructure and facilities.

'As the event was held in Queensland this year, it was important to demonstrate and promote the capacity of Queensland to undertake world class research services, and to position Queensland service providers as the emerging leaders – and that is what the MOU will help to promote' Mr Pennisi said.

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Several members of QCTN are striving forward and demonstrating this to the international markets everyday. One such member, University of Queensland-based contract research organisation TetraQ, recently tied up with NeuroDiscovery Ltd, neurology focused research and development company to market the safety pharmacology services of NeuroDiscovery's 100% subsidiary, NeuroSolutions Ltd in Australasia.

Coupled with this, TetraQ also achieved Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) certification from the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) for one of its key laboratories. The status means that the company is now recognised to provide internationally accredited testing services to the Australian and international biopharmaceutical industry.

The GLP status means that TetraQ's ADME (absorption, distribution, metabolism and elimination) laboratory's bioanalytical work will be accepted internationally for regulatory review, providing its clients in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries with a high degree of assurance – before long TetraQ will have other sections of its operations accredited.

At the BIO Convention in Boston earlier this year, QCTN was also proud to play host to the signing of the MOU between the Fraunhofer Institute and member organisation QIMR.

Qpharm, Australia's leading Phase I service provider, although having a heritage of decades, has recently celebrated five years as a commercial enterprise. This facility is working closely with a leading Japanese university and is already involved in exchanging students. In addition to this, Qpharm has also established a relationship with a US based organisation to provide mirco-dosing services – being the first facility in Australia to move towards offering this.

Not only are members advancing, QCTN is also evolving. QCTN has established an independent Institutional Bio-safety Committee (IBC) to assist members and sponsors undertake early clinical research involving genetically modified (GM) products.

It is proving to be an exciting time for Queensland as we constantly move ahead to become Australia's most desirable location for clinical research and development.

If you would like further information on QCTN or its' members, please contact the office on 07 3331 3999 or visit the website www.qctn.com.au

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