

William Blair & Company®

\$40,000,000

WILLIAM BLAIR & COMPANY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT



Staffing the Healthcare Industries

HAS BEEN ACQUIRED BY



WILLIAM BLAIR & COMPANY ACTED AS EXCLUSIVE FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO DOCS INTERNATIONAL, B.V.

JULY 2007

William Blair & Company is pleased to announce the success of its client, DOCS International B.V., in connection with its acquisition by ICON plc, for a cash consideration of \$40 million. William Blair & Company served as exclusive financial advisor to DOCS for the transaction, which represents the firm's 24th cross-border transaction in the past 12 months.

Pim van de Riet, chief executive officer of DOCS International, said in a recent press release, "We are delighted to be joining forces with ICON. Our combined knowledge and commitment to the clinical research staffing market will allow us to continue to attract, assess, and place talented individuals and teams at all levels of experience on a global basis."

DOCS International, which operates in eight European countries, focuses on the training and supply of contract and permanent clinical personnel to the pharmaceutical and biotech industry. Founded in 1997, DOCS International is devoted to providing staffing solutions that are designed to meet the

requirements of both corporate health care organizations and individual health care professionals.

William Blair & Company has advised DOCS formally since 2004, helping the company consider various growth initiatives and strategic decisions. DOCS also presented at William Blair & Company's 2005 Private Equity Conference.

ICON plc (NASDAQ: ICLR) is a global provider of outsourced development services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries. ICON specializes in the strategic development, management, and analysis of programs that support clinical development, from compound selection to Phase I-IV clinical studies.

For additional information about how the investment banking professionals at William Blair & Company can help your business or portfolio company, please contact us at corpfin@williamblair.com or visit our Web site at www.williamblair.com.

William Blair & Company®

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