

Press Release

1st February 2010

European Life Sciences survey shows that confidence is slowly returning to the market

Leading international Pharma and Life Sciences Executive Search group, Ruston Poole International, today released the findings of its latest survey to gauge the change in the mood of the European Life Sciences market, since its previous survey 12 months ago.

The report was based on in-depth interviews with over 30 senior individuals representing the corporate, venture capital, private equity and investment banking sectors active within life sciences across Europe.

Key points emerging are:

- There is a belief that more money is likely to be invested into the sector than in the previous 12 months.
- The companies likely to attract that investment are likely to be those with “near to market” prospects.
- Exits will prove to be somewhat easier than in the previous 12 months.
- There is a reasonable level of optimism that by the end of 2010, the IPO window would have re-opened for some companies.
- Investors will continue to take an active role in their portfolio companies, ensuring that the Executive management team have the required skills and strengths to grow the company in a continued challenging market.
- Major job losses are unlikely within the sector, although the level of new recruitment is likely to be subdued, in line with managing the cash burn.
- 2010 is again going to be a challenging year for raising new funds.

Paul Edwards, Chief Executive of Ruston Poole International, said,

“Whilst it would be unwise to say that all the woes of 2009 are firmly behind us, there does appear to be some level of optimism emerging from the sector. Significantly, there is now a belief that we will see greater levels of investment into the sector during 2010, with the prospect of the IPO window starting to re-open towards the end

of the year. The findings from our survey of last year, predicting the climate for 2009, have been very largely borne out in reality and I hope that the comparative optimism on some aspects of the industry will prove true for 2010.”

Ends

Copies of the full survey report can be obtained via the Ruston Poole web site (www.rustonpoole.com)

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Ruston Poole International Ltd.

Ruston Poole International was founded in 1992, and has created an exceptional track record in providing high quality senior executives for the Healthcare, Life Sciences and Pharmaceutical industries worldwide. Its international consulting team provides a unique breadth and depth of experience in the sector, combining relevant healthcare industry expertise with many years of specialised search experience