

## **RUSTON POOLE INTERNATIONAL HOSTS BREAKFAST SEMINAR WITH SIR RICHARD SYKES**

Many of the leading figures from the UK Life Sciences sector recently attended a seminar - "Breakfast with Sir Richard Sykes" - hosted by Ruston Poole International, one of Europe's leading Executive Search firms specialising in the pharmaceutical, life sciences and healthcare sectors.

Sir Richard, Rector of Imperial College London and former Chairman of GlaxoSmithKline, together with David Collingham, Executive Chairman of Ruston Poole International, led a lively debate that addressed the highly topical questions of the optimum environment for commercialisation of academic research. The meeting also considered the role of government in this, the opportunities for large pharmaceutical players to respond to the changing scene, and the fact that sustainable success also demands management talent to nurture businesses from an early stage.

Delegates debated and agreed on the need for:

- Immediate and long term investment in science education, especially chemistry and maths
- Streamlining access to government and EU grants
- Building critical mass into Technology Transfer by encouraging the formation of university tech transfer regional clusters
- More enlightened and targeted government funding of early stage companies, possibly via an equity investment model
- Attracting and retaining management talent into the sector from the earliest stages of growth businesses

Speaking after the meeting, Paul Edwards, Chief Executive of Ruston Poole International said, "Despite the increase in activity in China and the Far East, the UK bioscience industry is alive and prospering. One of the major keys to success is undoubtedly the ability to attract managers with the vision and the passion to create real value from the scientific foundations of an early stage company. We would like to think that over the coming years, Ruston Poole International will continue to play an important role in the growth of such companies."

Ends

Notes to Editors:

## **2. Ruston Poole International Ltd.**

Ruston Poole International was founded in 1992, and has created an exceptional track record in providing human capital solutions 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. The Company operates throughout Europe, North America and the Pacific Rim, addressing the needs of organisations ranging from the largest multinationals through to the smallest start-up.