



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clarkston Consulting Acquires QC Data's Health Informatics Division *Acquisition Provides Life Science Clients with Critical Information Management Solutions for Research and Development*

DURHAM, NC (September 24, 2003). Clarkston Consulting, a nationally recognized management and technology consulting firm, announced today that it has completed the asset acquisition of the Health Informatics division of QC Data, one of the world's premier providers of outsourced data management services for utility, telco, government and health industries.

The acquisition will strengthen Clarkston Consulting's international expertise in the pharmaceutical value chain by providing its life sciences clients with a service that helps them manage information in the research and development divisions of their companies. QC Data's Health Informatics division helps life sciences companies capture, store, and manage pre-clinical and clinical trial data to support the product development processes and archiving requirements of regulatory bodies like the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA).

"The acquisition of QC Data's Health Informatics division provides our clients with a proven archival solution that significantly lowers data management costs while improving business processes," said Tom Finegan, CEO of Clarkston Consulting. "Clarkston Consulting will now be able to offer our clients an established method to successfully align data management with core business drivers."

The Health Informatics division, located in Calgary, Canada, will become a fully owned subsidiary of Clarkston Consulting. A team of nearly 20 professionals will join Clarkston Consulting and continue to operate a 24-hour, seven day-a-week data center in Canada supporting clients, including GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), a global leader in the discovery and development of pharmaceuticals and consumer healthcare products.

"Nearly half of the top 50 pharmaceutical companies in the world already work with Clarkston Consulting," said Dr. Iain Robertson, Vice President of the Health Informatics division. "The QC Data Health Informatics team is excited to join Clarkston Consulting and continue to provide this important service to the life sciences industry."

QC Data has developed a long-term business relationship with clients because of its proven ability to provide associated deliverables with timeliness and cost-effectiveness. Since 1999, the Health Informatics division has helped GSK manage confidential, business-critical scientific



research and development data. QC Data designed and implemented an Electronic Data Archiving (EDA) system to electronically store information that historically has been maintained in paper form, thus creating a standard for the recording, analysis, and reporting of critical data. The creation of the EDA system also allows GSK employees at numerous sites to retrieve data quickly and securely via web-based access.

Additionally, QC Data has spearheaded projects such as the development of a livestock identification system in Canada in association with the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA), and in the U.S. for the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC). These systems provide the necessary infrastructure to manage animal disease outbreaks and improve food safety, while effectively promoting animal-based tracking. From a regulatory and marketing standpoint, it is critical to be able to identify the origin of potentially diseased animals to help stop the spread of disease among livestock and to increase consumer confidence in meat products.

The acquisition of QC Data's Health Informatics division enables Clarkston Consulting to offer clients even more services to support the life sciences industry, and proven business strategies to integrate data with long-term business goals.

About Clarkston Consulting

Clarkston Consulting is a nationally recognized management and technology consulting firm that creates successful business strategies and implements technology solutions. Clarkston's business value acceleration approach bridges the gap between strategy and technology to build a sustainable business advantage for Fortune 1000 manufacturers within the life sciences and consumer products industries. The firm's excellence has been recognized through numerous industry, vendor and client awards. Clarkston's exceptional client satisfaction rating, as measured by The Conference Board, is heralded as among the highest in the consulting industry. To learn more about Clarkston, visit www.clarkstonconsulting.com.

To learn more about QC Data, visit www.qcdata.com.

####

Contact:

Melissa McCaslin
Clarkston Consulting
919-484-4442
mmccaslin@clarkstonconsulting.com