

ASX Announcement

Polartechnics Limited (ASX Code: PLT)

18th December 2008

Major agreement for CerviScreen in Australia

- **Polartechnics (ASX:PLT) signs strategic alliance with Healthscope Limited (ASX:HSP)**
- **Healthscope subsidiary, Gribbles Pathology, to provide pathology services for CerviScreen**
- **Gribbles to purchase and distribute CerviScreen to its client network**

Polartechnics Limited (ASX:PLT), has today signed a three year strategic alliance with Healthscope subsidiary, Gribbles Pathology, to provide the pathology services for Polartechnics new self-sampling product, CerviScreen.

Polartechnics will sell CerviScreen to Gribbles who will distribute to its client network. Gribbles is comprised of 43 NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) accredited laboratories and currently service over 40 affiliated medical centres. Gribbles is at the forefront of molecular diagnostics, the fastest growing area in pathology markets.

Gribbles will perform the required specialised pathology analysis for the product and is also undertaking an invitro study that will assist in regulatory submissions for CerviScreen in Australia (TGA) and Europe (CE) to allow for direct to consumer sales.

This alliance follows the recent signing of an exclusive agreement with the world's leading medical swab manufacturer in Italy for the manufacture of specialised flocked swabs that already carry full C.E certification.

Polartechnics has developed CerviScreen in line with International Government Policies to reduce the prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) both in Australia and worldwide. It is estimated that globally, there are over 340 million new cases of curable STI's in men and women between 15 and 49 years annually.¹ These infections include Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea and Trichomoniasis, all of which can be sampled by CerviScreen for analysis.

Polartechnics Chairman, Mr Rob Hunter said "Studies have shown that many women prefer the privacy of self-sampling compared to the uncomfortable and invasive current cervical sampling techniques, that require pelvic examination by a doctor. CerviScreen can be used by a woman in a medical clinic or in the privacy of her own home."

Mr Hunter also added "This agreement with Gribbles is a further validation of the market preference for Polartechnics products in this growing sector. These agreements tie in with our global strategy for CerviScreen that will launch in 2009, and which we expect to generate about \$46 million in sales over the next three years."

¹ *Global prevalence and Incidence of curable STI's*. Geneva, World Health Organisation, 2001

Polartech has confirmed initial orders from its Chinese distributor for 100,000 units of CerviScreen in March 2009 with mutually agreed forecast sales to rise to 10 million units per annum over the next three years. CerviScreen will be sold through their network of over 2,000 pharmacies throughout China.

For Further Information:

Ben Dillon
Managing Director
Polartech Limited
T: 61 2 8568 5333

Dr Keith Byron
Scientific Director – Molecular Pathology
Healthscope Limited
T: 61 3 9538 2272

About Polartech Limited:

Polartech Limited (ASX: PLT) is a biomedical company specialising in the detection of pre-cancer and cancer. Together with CerviScreen™, Polartech has developed and manufactures TruScreen™, a real-time point of care cervical cancer screening device. TruScreen is CE accredited and is used commercially in Asia, Middle East and Eastern Europe. Polartech also markets MediScan™, a real-time medical record system, for merging visual and text data and SolarScan™, a cancer-screening device for melanoma detection.

About Healthscope Limited:

Healthscope Limited (ASX: HSP) is one of Australia's leading private healthcare operators. Their reach of facilities around the country firmly places Healthscope as the second largest private hospital provider. Healthscope owns or manages 45 medical/surgical, rehabilitation and psychiatric hospitals. In addition, Healthscope operates a leading pathology business with facilities in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia. The company was formed in 1985 and listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in 1994.