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ASX Release

Healthscope Commences New Pathology Operations in Auckland, New Zealand

Healthscope's wholly owned subsidiary, Labtests Auckland Limited (Labtests) has today begun operations from its state-of-the-art laboratory facility in Auckland, New Zealand. Today's commencement of operations is in accordance with the transitional arrangements agreed with the Auckland Region District Health Boards prior to official commencement of Labtest's contract on Monday 7 September 2009.

"The start of our Labtests operations in Auckland has gone very well today," said Mr Bruce Dixon, Healthscope's Managing Director. "The establishment of this laboratory is a major achievement for our pathology business and all involved should be congratulated" Mr Dixon added.

Labtests has an exclusive eight-year contract with the three Auckland Region District Health Boards to provide all community pathology testing for the region.

The transition of the contract from the incumbent provider began today with Labtests taking over all testing for the Counties Manukau region – approximately 30% of the Auckland region's full pathology testing load.

Labtests will then take over the testing for the Auckland District Health Board on Monday 24 August and will complete the full transition on Monday 7 September when it takes up the testing for the Waitemata region.

Labtests new 5,500sqm, purpose-designed, laboratory in Mt Wellington that has been established to service the contract, is among the world's most automated and technically advanced pathology laboratories and employs around 700 laboratory and support staff. Labtests has a network of 56 collection centres to service the needs of the Auckland region and its own fleet of 30 medical couriers and 20 mobile phlebotomists.

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