



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

US investors eye Queensland biotech

Queensland biotechnology companies are set to receive an increased visibility with overseas investors, following the signing of a partnership between a United States venture capital group and a group of leading Queensland life sciences entities.

The partnership between life sciences investment group Burrill & Company and the Queensland group - including the State Government, aims to attract more attention and ultimately investment into Queensland's burgeoning biotechnology industry, and will also help profile local projects and companies to the international marketplace.

The agreement, managed by Queensland Clinical Trials Network Inc. (QCTN), includes leading local entities: Clinical Network Services (CNS); Griffith Enterprise (Griffith University); Q-Pharm; QUTbluebox (Queensland University of Technology); and TetraQ, who will feature at Burrill & Company-presented events and in publications over the next 18 months, to gain access to Burrill & Company's clients and investor pool.

QCTN CEO Mario Pennisi said the partnership will be invaluable for the state's biotech industry in securing funding to take research projects from the laboratory through to commercialisation.

"Queensland is home to some of the best researchers and facilities in the world, but still relies on overseas interest and investment in order for many of these projects to get off the ground and to the commercial stage - and we need to ensure that these capabilities are promoted at every opportunity.

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“Having a group such as Burrill & Company with their high profile, excellent reputation history, experience and expertise in life sciences investment will be of great benefit to our members, and the Queensland biotechnology industry in general,” Mr Pennisi said.

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh made the announcement today, of the US\$70,000 deal while on a joint visit to a major Californian bio-pharmaceutical facility with Burrill & Company founder and CEO Mr Steve Burrill.

“Mr Burrill has 40 years experience in the biotechnology field, experience that will prove invaluable to Queensland. His company manages more than AU\$1 billion in investments and has an outstanding global reputation in the industry,” the Premier said.

“Burrill and Company already has interests in Malaysia and India so Australia is a natural next step in which to establish partnerships and we are pleased that they’ve agreed to partner with Queensland.”

Burrill & Company invest in life science companies, including biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, medical devices, nutraceuticals, agriculture and industrial biotechnology ventures.

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About QCTN

Queensland Clinical Trials Network Inc. (QCTN) was established in 2005 and is an independent, not-for-profit industry organisation, based in Australia. QCTN itself does not undertake preclinical or clinical research; however, QCTN member organisations provide the research services.

As a peak industry representative organisation, QCTN is an 'umbrella organisation' representing more than 70 national and international businesses which have a presence in Queensland – and represent almost every facet in the therapeutic product development pipeline. These organisations are life sciences service providers and related entities serving the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, complementary medicines and medical devices industries.

With over 70 members, QCTN is a primary point of contact for international organisations seeking to undertake preclinical and clinical drug development in Australia, QCTN helps identify and connect overseas organisations with appropriate Australian research institutes, biotechnology and medical device companies and life sciences third party service providers.

The broad base of QCTN's membership extends beyond clinical trials alone, with entities ranging from preclinical services providers, medical services, research organisations and also support service-related companies.

QCTN is involved in organising seminars, training industry workshops, conferences, establishing and maintaining relationships with other industry groups in Australia and abroad and participating in national and international forums to improve current regulations and systems for undertaking preclinical and clinical research.

QCTN's aim is to promote and raise the visibility of the Australian biopharmaceutical industry and life sciences service providers at a national and international level and to support them in building their capabilities in terms of know-how, best business practices, information and human resource solutions, as well as to facilitate opportunities for in/out licensing deals, mergers and acquisitions, and marketing activities. In addition, QCTN has introduced several unique initiatives that provide members and sponsors access to specialised support not available elsewhere:

- Independent Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)
- Independent Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
- Staff deployment services – SOS (Staff on Site)
- TrialChecker
- 1300Trials
- RTO.

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