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Veredus Laboratories' VereFlu™ Chip Tested Successfully on Clinical Samples of Pandemic H1N1-2009 Influenza Strain

Singapore, 06 July 2009 — Veredus Laboratories, a leading provider of molecular detection tests, today announced that the VereFlu™ chip has been tested successfully on confirmed pandemic H1N1-2009 influenza positive samples in a joint trial with the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL).

The VereFlu™ chip, based on STMicroelectronics's lab-on-chip platform, is a portable lab-on-chip application that can identify and differentiate human strains of Influenza A and B viruses in a single test with high accuracy and sensitivity.

The ability of the chip to simultaneously lock on multiple segments of the genes of the A(H1N1) influenza virus enables it to identify the virus with a much higher degree of confidence compared to other tests. This capability is made possible by the microarray on the chip and this is especially relevant for influenza viruses as they are known for their rapid mutation. The advantage of VereFlu™ is its ability to identify an infection without multiple testing as required by current methods, thereby saving time.

"Monitoring of influenza activity is very important, as demonstrated by this crisis with H1N1-2009. The NPHL does regular surveillance of influenza subtypes and strains circulating in the community. We have now involved more medical labs to participate in the surveillance work. We are constantly on the lookout for new technologies able to detect and identify influenza virus types quickly. It is good that Singapore companies are able to respond with new solutions for testing pandemic influenza." said Associate Professor Raymond Lin, Head of the Ministry of Health's National Public Health Laboratory.

"We are greatly encouraged with the findings as it validates our proprietary methodology. Veredus will continue to work with our current customers, including public health laboratories around the world to further confirm our findings. Our next step is to enable the chip to check for drug resistance in Influenza A(H1N1) as it mutates. This will significantly enhance its capability to combat potentially deadly variants of influenza viruses," said Dr Rosemary Tan, Chief Executive Officer of Veredus Laboratories. "VereFlu™ is already being deployed to several pilot users in Asia and Middle East and we look forward to increasing our customer base."

"In face of this global pandemic on A(H1N1), the combination of ST's lab-on-chip platform with Veredus' molecular diagnostics expertise stands out as a powerful tool in its ability to provide rapid and accurate identification of the virus," said Anton Hofmeister, Group Vice-President and General Manager for ST's Microfluidic Division. "The findings of the trial confirm our joint efforts in the field of molecular diagnostics are on the right track and set to catalyze the adoption of VereFlu™ in the market."

About VereFlu™

VereFlu™ influenza chip is developed by Veredus Laboratories, a local medical diagnostics company in conjunction with ST Microelectronics, a global leader in silicon chip design and manufacturing. It is a portable lab-on-chip application for rapid detection of all major influenza types at the point of need in a single test. Unlike existing diagnostic methods, VereFlu™ is a break-through molecular diagnostic test that can detect infection with high accuracy and sensitivity within two hours, providing genetic information of the infection that traditionally would take days to weeks to learn.

About Veredus Laboratories Pte Ltd

Founded in 2003, Veredus Laboratories Pte Ltd is a privately held, life sciences company that develops, commercializes and manufactures diagnostic tools that are marketed worldwide. Veredus offers highly sensitive and user-friendly molecular diagnostic tools that include gel based detection kits and VereChip™ that utilizes the latest cutting edge Lab-on-Chip technology. Veredus' VereChips™ are driven by VereID™ Biosystem. Veredus' first Lab-on-Chip product was released in 2008 and focuses on the global threat of influenza, called VereFlu™. This is followed by the release of the VereThreat™ chip in early 2009, which allows for bio-surveillance for the first line of defence in places of need.

Veredus has also been well recognized in the industry, receiving multiple awards such as *Red Herring Asia 100*, *Red Herring Global 100*, *Asia Innovation Award (Gold)* and *BioSpectrum Editor's Choice Emerging MedTech Company of Singapore* within the few years of her establishment. For more information, please visit www.vereduslabs.com.

About STMicroelectronics

STMicroelectronics is a global leader serving customers across the spectrum of electronics applications with innovative semiconductor solutions. ST aims to be the undisputed leader in multimedia convergence and power applications leveraging its vast array of technologies, design expertise and combination of intellectual property portfolio, strategic partnerships and manufacturing strength. In 2008, the Company's net revenues were \$9.84 billion. Further information on ST can be found at www.st.com.

For more information, please contact:

Dr Rosemary Tan

Chief Executive Officer
Veredus Laboratories Pte Ltd
Mobile: +65 9619 9690
Email: rosemary@vereduslabs.com

Ms Esther Gan

Director
Corporate Communications
STMicroelectronics Asia-Pacific
Tel: +65 6216 5522
Email: esther.gan@st.com