

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MEDICAL DIAGNOSTICS RESEARCH AND MANUFACTURING BUSINESS TO EXPAND TO ST. LUCIE COUNTY INCREASING THE RESEARCH COAST'S LIFE SCIENCES CLUSTER**

**PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (December 1, 2009)** – The Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, Inc. (EDC) has assisted in the expansion to St. Lucie County of HealthChem Diagnostics, LLC, a medical diagnostics research and manufacturing firm. The company plans to create 160 high-wage jobs over the next five years along with a capital investment of \$27,000,000 in its new facility to be based in Fort Pierce, FL. The EDC led efforts to secure state and local support for the project to bring HealthChem Diagnostics to St. Lucie County. Through Enterprise Florida, the state's economic development organization and the Governor's Office of Trade, Tourism and Economic Development, HealthChem Diagnostics was awarded a Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund. St. Lucie County has also committed to provide the company with property tax abatement based on the company's job creation, capital investment and commitments, along with impact fee reimbursement and accelerated permitting.

"Adding 160 jobs in this challenging economy is truly a testament to teamwork, dedication and to the foresight of HealthChem's executive team," Larry Pelton, President of the EDC commented. "Everyone pulled together to make this happen."

The new facility in St. Lucie County will manufacture the patented TD Glucose skin patch for use in the TD Glucose Monitoring System. This system provides diabetics with a non-invasive, painless, bloodless, easy to use and rapid method to monitor their glucose levels. The TD Glucose System combines proprietary and patented trans-dermal technology with HealthChem membrane-based diagnostic technology. The retail price of the TD Glucose Monitoring System is expected to be competitive with currently available finger-stick blood glucose monitoring systems and will be available for sale first in the European Union in early 2011.

"Our expansion in St. Lucie County will allow for unique regional partnerships while expanding our reach internationally," said Peter Wolfe, Vice President of Business Operations for HealthChem Diagnostics, who will oversee the staffing of the new facility. "St. Lucie County is an outstanding location, and we look forward to collaborating with the increasing number of life sciences organizations that call the Research Coast their home."

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#### **About HealthChem Diagnostics Holdings, LLC:**

HEALTH CHEM DIAGNOSTICS (HCD) manufactures point-of-care medical diagnostic products for use at home, in physician offices, and other healthcare locations and markets them worldwide through multiple distribution channels under its own HealthCheck brand as well as OEM (original equipment manufacturer) and private label programs.

Some of HCD's diagnostic line of products on the market and in development include its HealthCheck brand of at home testing and screening products, noninvasive TD Glucose™ Monitoring System for diabetics to monitor glucose levels, HealthChem Diagnostics Total and HDL Cholesterol Home Screening Tests, professional use TriMeter™ system for analytical monitoring of Total and HDL Cholesterol and blood glucose from a finger-stick, Drugs of Abuse screening tests available in HCD's branded ScanGuard™ and private label One-Step slide, strip or multi-test cassette formats, Over-the Counter and professional pregnancy and fertility family planning products in multiple formats – including HCD's accurate and easy to use One Step-One Minute

Pregnancy Test™ 2 One Minute Dipstream™ Wand and soon to be approved in Europe the Sanisal Saliva HIV Test that requires no blood for rapid HIV testing in 10 minutes.

Many of HealthChem's diagnostic products incorporate its patented and proprietary membrane-based technology platform. HCD presently holds 7 U.S. patents with foreign equivalence, and has 2 U.S and 12 foreign patent applications pending.

**About the EDC of St. Lucie County, Inc.:**

The Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, Inc. is a 501c(6) not-for-profit, membership organization whose mission is to encourage a competitive environment that nurtures clusters of industries employing state-of-the-art technologies, a skilled workforce, and that stimulate economic growth through expansion of the private sector within St. Lucie County and the Research Coast.