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GE Healthcare Announces contract with VHA to Provide Professional Services

GE's Performance Solutions will Benefit VHA Member Facilities

WAUKESHA, Wis. (August 4, 2005) - GE Healthcare announced today that it has signed an agreement with VHA Inc. – an alliance that represents 2,400 not-for-profit healthcare organizations nationwide – to offer select professional services to VHA member facilities through GE's Performance Solutions business. This agreement encompasses operational, business growth and marketing solutions for radiology and education in GE's renowned change management techniques (Change Acceleration Process and Work-Out™).

This three-year agreement is effective as of July 1, 2005, and represents an expansion of an existing relationship between GE Healthcare and VHA. Over the past decade, GE Healthcare and VHA have worked together to determine, develop and deliver a wide range of solutions aimed at improving hospital performance and ultimately raising the quality of patient care in radiology. Since 1998, GE's Performance Solutions group has

delivered more than 2,500 engagements globally focused solely on healthcare, including work with VHA members such as Valley Baptist Health System in Harlingen, Texas; Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital in Houston, Texas; and Charleston Area Medical Center in West Virginia.

“We are pleased to announce this new alliance with GE’s Performance Solutions group,” said Amy Anthony, vice president VHA supplier services. “We strive to deliver the highest caliber solutions, and believe that GE’s unique capabilities will complement our existing VHA Services and our team of experienced consultants, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, administrators, and financial experts to bring added value to our member facilities. The offerings from Performance Solutions clearly support VHA’s mission to improve members’ clinical and economic performance.”

“GE Healthcare views this agreement as another key step in creating positive change in the delivery of patient care,” said Jackie Luchsinger, Principal with the Performance Solutions Radiology Practice. “We look forward to working more closely with VHA members, and sharing some of the strategies that have been successfully deployed at other VHA member facilities.”

Details on offerings included in agreement with VHA:

Radiology: Leveraging extensive radiology expertise and a collaborative, data-driven approach to problem-solving, GE helps customers realize better service quality, greater efficiency and a faster return on their technology investment. Within the framework of radiology services, engagements focus on areas such as improving operational performance, optimizing technology, and enhancing business growth and marketing capabilities.

Change Management: With an emphasis on driving acceptance and accountability across the organization, GE’s proven Change Acceleration Process (CAP) and Work-Out

techniques address the cultural side of change. Education and mentoring from GE's master change agents helps teams acquire vital problem-solving skills and develop capabilities to accelerate the pace of change.

Through this agreement, VHA and GE Healthcare will also seek to align forces in support of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's campaign (www.ihl.org) to save 100,000 patient lives by June 2006. Both organizations have signed on as national partners, and are advocating the adoption of certain clinical measures that have been proven effective in reducing medical errors and improving care.

About VHA

VHA Inc. is a national alliance of leading not-for-profit health care organizations that work together to improve the health of the communities they serve. VHA delivers industry leading supply chain management services and enables regional and national member networks to improve clinical and operational performance and drive sustainable results.

Based in Irving, Texas, VHA has 18 local offices serving more than 2,400 health care organizations across the United States.

About GE Healthcare

GE Healthcare provides transformational medical technologies that will shape a new age of patient care. GE Healthcare's expertise in medical imaging and information technologies, medical diagnostics, patient monitoring systems, disease research, drug discovery and biopharmaceutical manufacturing technologies is dedicated to detecting disease earlier and helping physicians tailor treatment for individual patients. GE Healthcare offers a broad range of services to improve productivity in healthcare and

enable healthcare providers to better diagnose, treat and manage patients with conditions such as cancer, neurological and cardiovascular diseases.

GE Healthcare is a \$14 billion unit of General Electric Company (NYSE: GE) that is headquartered in the United Kingdom. Worldwide, GE Healthcare employs more than 42,500 people committed to serving healthcare professionals and their patients in more than 100 countries.