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Exeter Friendly Society goes live on THELMA-UK

ICSGlobal Limited, a company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, has achieved another important step in the company's UK expansion with the UK-based Private Medical Insurance organisation, Exeter Friendly Society, going live on THELMA-UK with medical Consultants processing electronic claims.

To maximise the uptake and volume growth of electronic claiming in the UK, ICSGlobal is now working collaboratively with the Big Three suppliers of practice management software to UK medical consultants - Avebury Computing Limited (ACL), DGL and PPM.

ACL were involved in the first live connection to Exeter Friendly Society, via their MidexPro software. DGL connected their product to THELMA-UK in a Proof of Concept in 2006. PPM are currently connecting their product.

ICSGlobal's CEO, Tim Murray said having THELMA-UK in commercial operation is an important step in the company's UK expansion.

"Like many countries around the world the UK private health sector is still largely a paper based health payments system. This is not only inefficient, it adds billions of pounds to healthcare costs.

"We are confident that, working with the Big Three software vendors, we can rapidly improve the level of electronic claiming in the UK health system," Mr Murray said.

Exeter Friendly Society's modern business management processes and highly sophisticated back office support systems meant they were able to complete the implementation to THELMA-UK in less than a week, establishing the benchmark for a private health insurer switching on real time electronic claiming.

Exeter Friendly Society's IT Development Manager, Mr Julian Hicks, said the THELMA-UK implementation went like clockwork.

"As soon as we started speaking to ICSGlobal's technical team in Sydney, and realised that THELMA-UK utilises state-of-the-art web services technology, as we do, it was evident the implementation was going to be straight forward," said Mr Hicks.

"From that point there was a couple of days of development time at our end, plus some testing. The challenge now is to get volume in the door, and we'll be doing all we can to assist ICSGlobal and the software vendors to achieve this," added Mr Hicks.

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About Exeter Friendly Society

Formed in 1927, Exeter Friendly Society's membership had grown to more than 100,000 people by the end of the Second World War. Following the formation of the National Health Service (NHS) in 1948, membership fell, so a strategic decision was taken to become a full Private Medical Insurance organisation. Exeter Friendly Society now delivers an affordable range of health insurance products to meet the needs of customers throughout the UK and in over 100 countries across the world. As well as an office in Exeter, Exeter Friendly Society recently expanded operations into Spain providing dedicated insurance services for expatriates in Spain and Portugal. For more information about Exeter Friendly Society, visit www.exeterfriendly.co.uk

About ICSGlobal and THELMA

Founded in 1990 as an engineering and IT consultancy, ICS Group listed on the Australian Stock Exchange as ICSGlobal Limited in 1999 [ASX:ICS]. Since 2000, ICSGlobal's core business has been the unique "any-to-any" health industry clearing house technology **THELMA (Transactional Health Exchange Linking Multiple Applications)**, which ICSGlobal built, owns and operates. THELMA creates interoperability between the broad range of new and legacy software systems that typically exist in health systems. This enables health industry business partners in any country to conduct financial, clinical and administrative transactions electronically over the Internet. THELMA has been live in Australia since 2001. It is live in the UK, and a Proof of Concept for THELMA to power a national medical banking platform in the US is in progress. For more information visit www.icsglobal.net and www.thelma.com.au.