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CenterWatch Main and Editorial Offices
22 Thomson Place, 47F1, Boston, MA 02210
Tel (617) 856-5900 Fax (617) 856-5901
cw.editorial@thomson.com

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Steve Zisson Managing Editor
Sara Gambrill Senior Editor
Stephen DeSantis Senior Associate Editor
Tracy Trundle Drug Intelligence
Melissa Nazzaro Advertising
Paul Gualdoni Production Manager

Send news submissions to Steve Zisson
Tel (617) 856-5950 Fax (617) 856-5901
stephen.zisson@thomson.com

To subscribe to *CWWeekly* or other CenterWatch publications, contact our customer service department.
Tel (800) 765-9647 Fax (800) 850-1232
P.O. Box 105109, Atlanta, GA 30348-9891

To order reprints, contact Rick Lavallee.
Tel (617) 856-5224
rick.lavallee@thomson.com

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Industry Briefs**Technology**

■ Pennsylvania-based **Document Solutions Group** (DSG) has settled a longstanding, patent infringement suit filed by St. Paul, Minn.-based technology company **Datasci**. Datasci filed similar lawsuits against eClinical companies **Phase Forward**, **Datatrak**, **etrialis** and **DataLabs**. Phase Forward settled for \$8.5 million in the suit Datasci filed against the company in June 2004. In August 2006, DataLabs, which was acquired by ClinPhone in October 2006, settled its suit for an undisclosed amount and a non-exclusive licensing arrangement. DataLabs cited the primary reason for its settlement agreement was because of the possibility of its customers getting sued, which Datasci was exploring. DataTrak and etrialis have not announced any settlements. In 2002, the U.S. Federal Patent and Trade Mark Office awarded Mark L. Kozam, founder of Olney, Md.-based MLK Software a patent—6,496,827—for the “Methods and apparatus for the centralized collection and validation of geographically distributed clinical study data with verification of input data to the distributed system.” The patent was filed in January 2000 and patent office records show the company began the process of obtaining the patent by filing a Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in May 1998.

Diagnostic Imaging

- Doylestown, Penn.-based **Beacon Bioscience**, the medical imaging division of ICON, has officially changed its name to **ICON Medical Imaging**. ICON, a contract research organization (CRO) acquired Beacon Bioscience in July 2004. Founded in November 2000, Beacon Bioscience had 50 employees at the time of its acquisition. Its technology platform focuses on the centralized management, processing and reading of digitized medical images generated in clinical trials, including X-ray, MRI, CT, PET, nuclear medicine and ultrasound.
- Cary, N.C.-based **Cetero Research**, an early stage and bioequivalency-focused CRO, has launched a new set of solutions called CorWatch. The suite will offer sponsors its expertise in QT/QTc interval prolongation, core ECG laboratory vendor partnerships, study design and data management. Cardiac safety assessment data are now vital for regulatory approval after a number of drug safety reviews and cardiac-related black box warnings led to increased oversight.

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