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**Bangalore, July 28, 2010:** Mr DA Prasanna has taken over the charge of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bangalore, India-based Manipal Acunova Limited, the holding company of Ecron Acunova GmbH and Acunova Life Sciences. He was previously the Vice Chairman of the company and has been handed the reigns of chairmanship from Dr Ramdas Pai.

Commenting on the development, Dr Pai said, "In the last five years the company has grown from a start-up to a successful and stable CRO. Starting services as a clinical trials lab in 2005 and BA/BE service in our Cancer Hospital, it has grown in services in India, established presence in Europe and has gained reputation for its quality of services."

Speaking on his appointment Mr Prasanna said, "Our strategy is to accelerate the process of bringing new drugs to market, leveraging the two decades of experience in Western Europe with the advantages offered by the new clinical research geographies of India and Eastern Europe. We have built expertise in diabetes, cancer, diagnostics, heart disease and in stem cell therapy. We plan to expand our service to Americas and Asia. Dr Pai's guidance to Manipal Acunova is invaluable and we look forward to his continued guidance."

Manipal Acunova is a CRO founded by Mr Prasanna and Manipal group. It offers clinical research services to pharmaceutical, biotech, nutritional, device and medical diagnostic companies. The company acquired Ecron, a European CRO in 2007 and expanded services to Western and Eastern Europe. Orbimed Advisors have provided growth funding in 2009 for expansion of services.

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