



Solutions in language processing



Lingway and Umanis sign a technological and commercial partnership agreement in the area of clinical research

Paris, february 13th, 2003 – Umanis Clinical Research, the CRO (Contract Research Organization) of the Umanis group (formerly known as Europstat) and Lingway, a company specializing in the conception and development of linguistic technologies, announce the signing of a technological and commercial partnership agreement for Europe.

As a first step in this partnership, Umanis Clinical Research is pleased to announce the purchase of LMDE (Lingway Medical Dictionary Encoder). This application from Lingway allows the automatic coding of the adverse events of drugs, medical histories and concomitant diseases, in the standard international classification scheme known as MedDRA (Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities). LMDE will be used to carry out MedDRA coding tasks in the area of the company's service activities (data management and pharmacovigilance).

In addition, Umanis Clinical Research will integrate Lingway's LMDE system within its own range of services, specifically by developing software links with the principal data management tools used in the pharmaceutical industry (such as Clintrial, Oracle, SAS, etc.), thus creating an innovative data management solution for clinical research.

Both companies will be proposing this new collaborative solution to their respective current and future customers.

« The pharmaceutical or biotechnology laboratories, as well as numerous CROs are all searching not only for innovative solutions to facilitate the data management of their clinical trials and the management of pharmacovigilance activities, but also for solutions which permit them to increase the reliability of their quality processes and to improve their productivity. The linguistic analysis components for MedDRA provided by Lingway fulfill these requirements perfectly », explains Gilles Sonou, Director of Umanis Clinical Research.

« We are very pleased about this partnership with Umanis Clinical Research which has succeeded in bringing about one of the most complete range of services for the pharmaceutical industry on the market with a real potential for development throughout Europe », comments Bernard Normier, Managing Director of Lingway.

In the same spirit of partnership, both companies consider the imminent launch of an ASP (Application Service Provider) version for MedDRA¹ coding, which is intended for small pharmaceutical companies and service providers who specialize in this field and which will be based on the numerous LMDE functions together with the storage solutions offered by Externalis, the Storage branch of the Umanis Group.

¹ MedDRA is a medical thesaurus in English of more than 55 000 entries which is used by all the pharmacovigilance authorities in America, Europe and Japan, as well as by the pharmaceutical industry. It permits the dissemination on an international scale of information about medical products intended for human use. MedDRA contains a series of terms which categorise medical information in a systematic way. MedDRA contains terms to describe symptoms, signs, illnesses, diagnostics and tests.

About Umanis Clinical Research: www.umanis.com/cro

Umanis Clinical Research, the CRO of the Umanis Group, offers a suite of high value added services which cover the entire range of biomedical research activities.

Its principal objective is to assist the medical and marketing teams throughout the whole process of the development of medicines and medical devices (pre-clinical studies, phase I to IV trials, epidemiological investigations and pharmacovigilance studies and reports).

The services offered in Europe by Umanis Clinical Research are built around multiple domains of competence: Medical and Regulatory Affairs, Strategic and Methodological Consulting (networks of investigators, feasibility studies, eCRF, Web and PDA projects, etc.), Monitoring, Biometrics, Medical Writing, Training, In- and Out-Sourcing and New Technologies.