



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**QIAGEN ANNOUNCES SENIOR MANAGEMENT ADDITIONS AS GENERAL MANAGERS OF QIAGEN K.K. (JAPAN) AND QIAGEN LTD. (UNITED KINGDOM)**

**Venlo, The Netherlands, December 16, 1997** - QIAGEN N.V. (Nasdaq: QGENF) today announced the appointment of the General Managers for both its newly established Japanese joint venture QIAGEN K.K. and its United Kingdom subsidiary QIAGEN Ltd.

Kazuo Tokushige started his position as General Manager, President and Director of QIAGEN K.K. in November 1997. Mr. Tokushige brings with him over 23 years of experience in the management of sales, marketing and operations for diagnostic and pharmaceutical businesses in Japan. Most recently, Mr. Tokushige was Senior Executive Vice President, Director and President of Serono K.K. and Executive Advisor to the Chief Executive Officer of Ares-Serono Group as well as a member of Ares-Serono Group's world-wide board of Senior Management. At the Ares-Serono Group, a Swiss pharmaceutical and diagnostic company, Mr. Tokushige established, developed and managed its Japanese subsidiary Serono K.K. which today contributes a significant portion of Ares-Serono Group's business. Prior to joining Serono K.K., Mr. Tokushige was responsible for managing the diagnostic businesses at Corning (Japan) K.K. Mr. Tokushige holds a Degree in Chemistry which he received in 1973 from the University of Texas in Austin.

Phillip Sefton joined QIAGEN Ltd. in October 1997 as General Manager and Managing Director after having spent 7 years at Boehringer Mannheim U.K. Ltd., most recently as Divisional Director, Laboratory Diagnostics Division and member of Boehringer Mannheim's United Kingdom management team.

In this role at Boehringer Mannheim U.K. Ltd., an entity of the Boehringer Mannheim Group, a leading supplier to the life science industry, Mr. Sefton was instrumental in increasing Boehringer Mannheim U.K.'s position within the diagnostic sector, which represents an important potential market for QIAGEN.

Prior to joining the Boehringer Mannheim Group, Mr. Sefton held Sales Management positions at Advanced Protein Products Ltd. and Flow Laboratories as well as a research and development position at Beecham Pharmaceuticals Research Division.

"We are extremely pleased to have added such a wealth of experience to QIAGEN's subsidiaries in these important markets for our products. Both Kazuo's and Phil's depth of experience in sales, marketing and management of operations in their respective countries bring tremendous strength to QIAGEN's presence in these markets which we believe have the potential to be the largest markets after the United States," said Dr. Metin Colpan, QIAGEN's Chief Executive Officer. "Our geographic presence is a very important factor for QIAGEN, and we believe that Kazuo and Phil will be able to help us to capitalize on this advantage for the Company."

QIAGEN N.V., a Netherlands holding company with subsidiaries in Germany, the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, France, Australia and Canada, believes it is the world's leading provider of innovative enabling technologies and products for the separation and purification of nucleic acids. The Company has developed a comprehensive portfolio of more than 250 proprietary, consumable products for nucleic acid separation and purification, nucleic acid amplification, as well as automated instrumentation and related services. QIAGEN's products are sold in more than 35 countries throughout the world to academic research markets and also to leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. In addition, the Company is positioning its products for sale into developing commercial markets, including DNA sequencing and genomics, nucleic acid-based molecular diagnostics, and genetic vaccination and gene therapy.

*Certain of the statements contained in this news release may be considered forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. To the extent that any of the statements contained herein relating to QIAGEN's products and markets are forward-looking, such statements are based on current expectations that involve a number of uncertainties and risks. Such uncertainties and risks include, but are not limited to, risks associated with management of growth and international operations (including the effects of currency fluctuations), variability of operating results, the commercial development of the DNA sequencing and genomics market, nucleic acid-based diagnostics market, and genetic vaccination and gene therapy markets, competition, rapid or unexpected changes in technologies, fluctuations in demand for QIAGEN's products (including seasonal fluctuations), and the Company's ability to identify and develop new products and to differentiate its products from competitors. For further information, refer to the discussion in reports that the Company has filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).*

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