



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Florida Blood Services and Blood Systems Finalize Donor Testing Joint Venture** FBS is expanding local laboratories and creating new jobs

(St. Petersburg, FL: 11/11/09) Florida Blood Services(FBS) and Blood Systems Laboratories(BSL)will consolidate their donor testing laboratories January 1, 2010 under the name Creative Testing Solutions(CTS). BSL currently operates high-volume testing laboratories near the Phoenix and Dallas airports. FBS testing facilities are located in St. Petersburg. Together, the two organizations test approximately 25 percent of the US blood supply. CTS will create the second largest donor testing lab in the US, with only the American Red Cross testing more donations. The new partnership will continue to focus on providing innovative approaches to meet customer service requirements, while maintaining a strong record of regulatory compliance in providing the safest possible blood for patient transfusion.

FBS has already hired 8 Medical Technologists and 4 Laboratory Assistants since August as this partnership began to evolve. In 2010, CTS in St. Petersburg plans to hire just as many more new staff. FBS Donor Testing Laboratories and Viral Confirmatory Special Testing Labs have already begun to expand and in 2010, CTS will occupy 30,000 square feet of space on the FBS campus. Recent expansion has made FBS the only donor nucleic acid testing facility in the world to employ the dual testing platforms available for these cutting edge donor tests, positioning CTS for future growth. Currently, FBS tests 900,000 blood donations from samples sent from blood centers as far north as Maine and as far south as Puerto Rico. In 2010, it is anticipated that CTS in St. Petersburg will begin viral testing on an additional 350,000 blood donations.

Blood Systems Laboratories President Sally Caglioti and Vice President for Donor Testing Operations Gene Robertson, PhD, will serve in those roles with Creative Testing Solutions. From Florida Blood Services, German Leparc, MD, will be the Medical Director and Ruth Zatik will continue as Director of Operations at the St. Petersburg location. The new non-profit organization will be governed by representatives from Florida Blood Services and Blood Systems Boards of Directors. Creative Testing Solutions will operate under Blood Systems' FDA license.

“In the centralized donor testing arena, laboratories must deliver extraordinary quality and compliance results along with disciplined cost control,” Caglioti said. “Creative Testing Solutions is positioned to meet those requirements, while offering the customized service and reliability that more than 90 blood centers and hospital-based blood banks have come to count on us for, day in and day out.”

“Innovation will be the hallmark of the new venture,” said Donald Doddridge, President and CEO of Florida Blood Services. “Redundant laboratories, access to all vendor technologies and collaboration opportunities with Blood Systems Research Institute all will help us deliver testing tailored to meet our customers' needs.”

Headquartered in St. Petersburg Florida, FBS provides over 350,000 blood donations to patients at 92 hospitals and other ambulatory healthcare facilities throughout 42 Florida, Georgia, and Alabama counties, through the participation of volunteer donors.

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**Additional Blood Supply Information is Available at [www.fbsblood.org](http://www.fbsblood.org)**

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