

PRESS RELEASE 16 April 2018 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MERGER WILL CREATE FORENSIC SERVICES ‘POWERHOUSE’

Forensic Access and ArroGen Forensics have agreed to merge their operations to create a powerhouse of high quality forensic support for police and legal teams, and forensic science providers who need additional capacity and cutting-edge specialist skills. The merger process and senior appointments for the new company ‘Forensic Access Limited’, are expected to be finalised by the end of April.

Forensic Access has been at the heart of UK forensic science for more than 30 years. The company was established in 1986, in the wake of some high-profile miscarriages of justice that involved forensic science. The company’s mission was to provide expert scientific advice for defence lawyers struggling to find the appropriate level of scientific expertise for court, and second opinions for police and prosecutors in cases of scientific uncertainty or concern. The twin areas of focus were expert forensic critique and technical assistance in individual cases, providing safe and sustainable forensic science evidence.

In 1997, Forensic Access created Forensic Alliance, specifically to provide support to police and law enforcement agencies. Forensic Alliance was instrumental in transforming the speed, cost and quality of forensic testing, helping to solve many of the UK’s most high profile and complex cases. More recently, Forensic Access has also established an internationally accredited forensic proficiency testing service to assist with the drive for improved quality standards in the industry.

ArroGen has also carved out an important niche for itself in the forensic science world, initially focusing on specialist areas such as forensic entomology in conjunction with forensic archaeology and anthropology. ArroGen has since developed accredited services in both firearms and footwear and is now the only independent forensic company that provides accredited fingerprint enhancement services from its specialist laboratory.

ArroGen built its reputation on the quality and responsiveness of its services, reflected in some of the prestige contracts it now enjoys. It continues to develop new services and now runs the only veterinary forensics service in the UK in conjunction with Surrey University.

Together, Forensic Access and ArroGen will be able to provide a broader range of internationally accredited forensic services, a richer portfolio of specialist skills including in medical and veterinary

fields, and important proficiency testing and other quality accreditation support services to improve confidence both in forensics, but also in criminal justice more generally.

Professor Angela Gallop, Forensic Access's Founder and CEO, commented "*Like all technology-based industries, forensic science has undergone enormous change in recent times. It's important that service providers embrace new opportunities and innovations but apply them in a safe and enduring way. This is precisely what this merger aims to support, and we are delighted to be a part of it.*"

John Owen, ArroGen's MD, said "*Both companies have excellent people and a similar culture - geared to delivering the highest quality forensic science and customer service. We will complement each other in many areas and the merger will enhance our joint capabilities, providing greater resilience and giving us the critical mass to develop new opportunities to sustain and grow the business.*"

Editors' Notes

More information on Forensic Access and ArroGen Forensics can be found at www.forensic-access.co.uk and www.ArroGenforensics.co.uk.

Forensic Access Limited

Forensic Access Ltd is a privately owned company established in 1986. The twin areas of focus – expert forensic critique and technical assistance in individual cases, reflect the company's goal of helping to ensure safe and sustainable forensic science evidence in court.

We are privileged in having some of the country's leading forensic scientists working for us. In addition to our full-time staff we work with consultants covering general forensic services and some highly specialised areas. These consultants are some of the highest regarded scientists in their field with international reputations. They are at the peak of their profession.

ArroGen Forensics Limited

ArroGen Forensics was founded as Manlove Forensics in 2004 by John and Kathy Manlove, two experienced forensic scientists with expertise in areas such as entomology, body fluids/DNA and marks comparison. The company originally focused on some of the more specialist areas of forensic science such as entomology and ecology as well as developing footwear and fingerprint enhancement services. As the company grew, it expanded its services to include ballistics and continued to develop its defence business, providing comprehensive case review services to solicitors covering all forensic disciplines.

The company has built its reputation on the quality of its people, science and customer service and after gaining UKAS 17025 accreditation, it became part of the National Forensic Framework. The company has successfully tendered for a number of major police and government agency contracts. In 2015 Manlove Forensics was purchased by The ArroGen Group and changed its name to ArroGen Forensics. It continues to be one of the main providers of forensic science in the UK, working for both prosecution and the defence, and is currently developing its Veterinary Forensics business in partnership with Surrey University.

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