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Metrics Inc., headquartered in Greenville, N.C., is one of the fastest-growing contract pharmaceutical development laboratories in the United States. The company provides quality pharmaceutical formulation, clinical trial material and small scale manufacturing (Phase III to commercial), and analytical development/validation services to the pharmaceutical industry.

This year, Metrics is completing an \$18-million, 47,000-square-foot facility addition that will nearly double its analytical and manufacturing space, dramatically expanding its service capabilities to clients.

As part of Metrics' long-term growth strategy, the expansion also allows Metrics to increase staff. The company plans to add at least 50 pharmaceutical scientists and technicians, among them industry veterans with experience to oversee projects from conception through completion.

The expansion is taking place at Metrics' existing 50,000-square-foot cGMP and GLP facility that is registered with and inspected by the FDA. The added space includes four new analytical laboratories, larger scale manufacturing (Phase III to commercial), stability storage, a dedicated laboratory for cytotoxic and potent compounds, and a microbiology laboratory. The expansion increases Metrics' capacity for service by 40 percent.

Not only will Metrics be able to increase production to 1 billion tablets a year (up from the current level of 50 million), but the company's capacity for stability studies will increase by 50 percent.

Space for microbiology services will increase five-fold with the opening of the new microbiology laboratory. Metrics will be able to perform sterility and BET testing as well as bringing antimicrobial assay online. This will enhance Metrics' particulate matter services, allowing the company to offer full analytical support of parenterals.

Three critical differences set Metrics apart from other contract laboratories. One, all clients work directly with a Metrics pharmaceutical or analytical development chemist. Two, projects are expedited quickly and efficiently; they don't languish in an analytical development queue. Three, Metrics' quality assurance team is highly experienced, ensuring compliance with all regulatory issues.

Technical services:

- Formulations development
- Clinical trial batch and small scale manufacturing (Phase III to commercial)
- Analytical method development and validation with particular expertise in stability-indicating HPLC methods
- Stability storage and testing
- Raw material release
- Trace element testing
- Routine analysis of dosage forms and drug substances

Formulation services:

- Tableting
- Capsule filling
- Over-encapsulation
- Milling
- Micronizing
- Enteric coating
- Sustained release and matrix release
- Ointments
- Creams
- Liquids