PQE Group Enters a Definitive Agreement to form Global Life Sciences Services Market Leader with CAI

PQE Group & CAI will pair complementary expertise supported by New York based Private Equity Firm JLL Partners

Florence, Italy [Nov. 18th, 2026] - **PQE Group**, a leading woman-owned global Life Sciences consulting firm, has entered into a definitive agreement with **JLL Partners**, a New York-based middle-market private equity firm focused on investing in the healthcare, industrials, and business services sectors, to support the company's next phase of growth. PQE will form a strategic partnership with **CAI**, a US Headquartered professional services firm dedicated to accelerating operational readiness and excellence in life sciences and mission-critical environments, to create an end-to-end service model for our customers.

This strategic partnership will bring together PQE's expertise in Data Integrity (mainly Computer System Validation, Cybersecurity & Digitalization) as well as Quality Compliance, with CAI's complementary expertise in Commissioning, Qualification and Validation (CQV), Operational Excellence and Operational Readiness. The combined organization will have an expanded presence across North America, Europe, Latin America and Asia-Pacific, providing clients with comprehensive support across the manufacturing lifecycle.

PQE Group's strong performance, global position, and continued growth have created a compelling opportunity to accelerate the company's next phase of expansion. This partnership will provide additional capital, strategic resources, and operational expertise to further scale its business, invest in innovation, strengthen service capabilities, and support customers operating in increasingly complex and highly regulated environments.

"*A partnership with CAI is a significant milestone for PQE Group and a powerful endorsement of our vision for the future*," said **Gilda D'Incerti**, CEO & Founder of PQE Group. "*Our success has always been rooted in a strong customer-first philosophy, operational excellence, and a talented team dedicated to delivering results. This partnership enables us to build on that foundation by expanding our capabilities, reaching new markets, and accelerating innovation. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and the impact we can create together for our customers and employees*."

The investment reflects confidence in PQE Group's long-term strategy, market position, and ability to continue serving as a trusted global partner to Life Sciences companies. Thanks to the support of CAI, clients will benefit from an integrated lifecycle offering, combining deep regulatory, quality, CQV and digital expertise to support their needs from strategy through implementation and ongoing operations.

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This transaction remains subject to regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions.

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About PQE GROUP
PQE Group is a biopharmaceutical and medical device quality solutions and compliance consulting company established in 1998 in Florence, Italy. Today, PQE has more than 40 offices and 2,000 professionals with global capabilities, offering a comprehensive range of services deliverable throughout the entire product quality lifecycle, that continuously evolve to meet the regulatory compliance and many others. The company is women-owned, socially engaged, and drives positive change in the Life Science sector. For more information, please visit www.pqegroup.com

About CAI
CAI is a professional services firm composed of engineering, quality and operations experts dedicated to accelerating Operational Readiness and Operational Excellence in life sciences and mission-critical environments. With deep roots in CQV (commissioning, qualification, validation), CAI has evolved over the past 30 years alongside the industries it serves, helping organizations bring complex facilities, systems and technologies online with confidence. For more information, please visit caiready.com

About JLL Partners
JLL Partners, LLC is a middle-market private equity firm with over three decades of experience transforming businesses in the healthcare, industrials, and business services sectors. The Firm is dedicated to partnering with companies that it believes it can help build into market leaders through a combination of strategic mergers and acquisitions, organic growth initiatives, and operational enhancements. The JLL Partners team is comprised of seasoned investment professionals and operating partners who are focused on driving long-term value creation across its portfolio. Since its founding in 1988, JLL partners has invested approximately $8 billion of equity capital with 61 platform investments. For more information, please visit www.jllpartners.com

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