



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CATO VENTURE GROUP MAKES STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN ETRIALS**

*Clinical Trial Software Seen As Key Tool for Improved Drug Development Worldwide*

**Morrisville, NC – October 23, 2003** – etrials Worldwide, Inc., a leading provider of eClinical software for the efficient collection, integration and review of data in the clinical trial process, announced today that Cato Venture Group, the venture capital affiliate of Cato Research Ltd., a leading contract research and development organization, has invested in etrials' Series A financing.

etrials' software allows drug development companies to improve their data collection process in clinical trials, resulting in shorter times to market and increased visibility of data trends and outcomes. Cato Research previously announced the designation of etrials as a vendor of choice. The companies have partnered on numerous joint proposals to biopharmaceutical companies looking to outsource clinical trial management activities. The non-exclusive strategic agreement allows both etrials and Cato Research to serve their customers better by offering capabilities outside the scope of their respective organizations.

"This investment represents a strong vote of confidence in both our company and in technology that is changing the clinical trial industry," said John Cline, CEO of etrials. "Cato Research and etrials have an excellent working relationship because we believe in the same thing: providing our customers with the best service and the best technology to make their clinical trials effective."

"Our mission is to help our clients gain regulatory approval in global markets. etrials helps us do that by providing well-designed software that streamlines the capture and validation of critical data points in a clinical study," said Dr. Allen Cato, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Cato Research and Principal of Cato Venture Group. "Our investment in etrials reflects our firm belief that technology of this type is of critical importance to the future of drug development worldwide."

**About Cato Research and Cato Venture Group**

Founded in 1988 by Dr. Allen Cato and Lynda Sutton and headquartered near Research Triangle Park, NC, Cato Research is a full-service contract research organization providing strategic and tactical support for clients in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries ranging from design and management of preclinical and clinical studies to submission of regulatory documents required for marketing approval. With a staff of approximately 300 and offices located in

the United States, Europe, Canada, Israel, and South Africa, the Cato Research team consistently demonstrates an unsurpassed level of responsiveness, flexibility, attention to detail, and passion in bringing their clients' products to market rapidly and cost effectively. Cato Venture Group is the venture capital affiliate of Cato Research focused on strategic investments in emerging life sciences companies. For more information, visit the company's website at [www.cato.com](http://www.cato.com).

**About etrials Worldwide, Inc.**

etrials has earned the loyalty of its healthcare partners by guiding them to simplify and accelerate the way they perform clinical trials, educate markets and collect post-approval data on drug efficacy and safety. Using innovative technologies with proven business processes, etrials offers an efficient eClinical platform for collecting, reviewing and distributing both quantitative subject information and educational resources for physicians and patients. etrials also provides experienced clinical consultation services to companies seeking to migrate from paper-based to eClinical methods, leading them through the critical processes involved in turning a technology into a solution. To date, our team of professionals has participated in over 400 clinical trials in more than 50 different countries, resulting in 11 NDAs/BLAs.

Founded in 1999, etrials is a privately financed company located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. For more information, visit the company's website at [www.etrials.com](http://www.etrials.com).

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**etrials Contact:**

Craig Pyne for etrials, Inc.  
+1 919.653.3400  
[marketing@etrials.com](mailto:marketing@etrials.com)

**Cato Ventures Contact:**

Shawn K. Singh  
Chief Business Officer  
Cato Research Ltd.  
Phone: +1-650-588-8256, Fax: +1-650-871-0150  
e-mail: [info@cato.com](mailto:info@cato.com)