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ORCHID CLOSES \$72 MILLION PRIVATE PLACEMENT

--Private Company's Financing is the Biotech Industry's Largest--

PRINCETON, N.J., Jan. 6, 2000 – Orchid Biocomputer, Inc. today announced that it has completed a \$72 million self-managed private placement offering of its equity securities. This private placement offering, Orchid's second round of venture capital financing, brings the total amount of private placement funding raised by the company to more than \$100 million since its inception in 1995. Additionally, Orchid today announced it has acquired GeneScreen, Inc., a recognized leader in genetic diversity analysis services, for an undisclosed amount not included in this \$72 million offering.

New investors in this round include Affymetrix (NASDAQ: AFFX), Oracle Strategic Partners LP, AP Asset Management Fund, International BioMedicine Partners, Burrill AgBio Capital Fund LP and the Taiwan Investment Group. Existing investors, who also supported the round, include Oxford Bioscience Partners, INVESCO Funds Group, WPG Farber, Present Fund, LLC and OrbiMed Advisors LLC. Affymetrix, Inc. served as the lead corporate investor. In December 1999, Orchid and Affymetrix announced that Orchid will supply its GBA® brand SNPware™ genotyping kits for use in Affymetrix' GeneChip® systems. Orchid will use these funds to help it further expand its business in the genetic diversity markets, namely pharmacogenetics and SNPs, as well as accelerate the company's revenue growth and move toward profitability.

"Orchid's \$72 million financing is the largest-ever private placement in the biotechnology industry for a private company, and considering that this unprecedented financing was self-managed it is certainly one for the record books," said Mark Edwards of Recombinant Capital, who has tracked the industry for over a decade. "After reviewing the documents and process that the Orchid team used, I am convinced that they have set the new definitive standard for the process of raising private financing self-managed or managed. This is a hot company with a lot of smart money, and I believe they would be very successful in parlaying this financing's strength and momentum directly into an IPO."

"Orchid will be a major player in the emerging field of pharmacogenomics," said G. Steven Burrill, chief executive officer of Burrill & Company and an internationally recognized spokesman for the life sciences and high technology industries. "They will also play a significant role in the elucidation of the importance of genetic variance in human health care and agriculture. Burrill & Company is pleased to participate in the continuing development of this exciting company."

"The financial community responded very positively to Orchid's positioning and strategy," said Dale Pfof, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of Orchid. "Orchid's strategy, to establish leadership in the genetic diversity market with our GBA SNP analysis technology, is being achieved through several initiatives. In the near term

we are driving profitability by offering our own pharmacogenetic products and services. We are also offering GBA as a proprietary assay by porting it in the form of proprietary kits to other instruments and chip platforms, such as in the collaboration we recently announced with Affymetrix. In the long term, Orchid is creating intellectual property to tap into value-added SNPs and the creation of proprietary label extensions. Orchid's contributions to the entire field of pharmacogenetics has been increasingly recognized through such efforts as our work with the SNP Consortium."

"This financing and the deals announced over the last six to nine months validate Orchid's strength and leadership in the genetic diversity market," said Donald Marvin, Orchid's chief operating officer and senior vice president of corporate development. "After acquiring Molecular Tool in 1998, we successfully aligned our business and technology aims around their leading SNP analysis technology known as GBA. We will continue to build upon our commercial base to expand the application of our SNP technology within the pharmacogenetics and genetic diversity markets, which also will include additional life sciences applications. We aim to sustain our leadership through our expertise in SNPs and genetic diversity as well as our innovative chips and systems with additional strategic collaborations, financings, and possibly an IPO. With our wide-reaching, fundamental SNP scoring patents, products and services, Orchid is in a strong position to lead the pharmacogenetics and SNPs industry."

Orchid Biocomputer, Inc. is a privately held biotechnology company headquartered in Princeton, N.J. Orchid is fulfilling unmet medical needs through its proprietary pharmacogenetics and microfluidics platform technologies designed to accelerate the discovery and development of novel therapeutic and bioanalytic products. In September 1999, Orchid launched SNPstream™, the company's fully-automated, high throughput assay platform for conducting industrial scale single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) genotyping. In addition to commercializing a wide range of products and services for genetic diversity analysis, Orchid is creating value in SNPs to improve existing pharmaceuticals and develop better pharmaceuticals and targets. Orchid has established a collaboration with The SNP Consortium Ltd., under which Orchid will perform validation and quality control testing on SNPs identified through the Consortium's research. For more information on Orchid and SNPs, visit the company's Web sites at <http://www.orchid.com> and <http://www.snps.com>, a Web site dedicated to the creation, collection and dissemination of information on SNPs.