

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

July 15, 2002

(Date of earliest event reported)

LABORATORY CORPORATION OF AMERICA HOLDINGS

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE	1-11353	13-3757370
-----	-----	-----
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification Number)

358 SOUTH MAIN STREET, BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27215

(Address of principal executive offices)

336-229-1127

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

Laboratory Corporation of America -Registered Trademark-Holdings (LabCorp -Registered Trademark-)(NYSE:LH) announced that it has signed a national contract with San Diego-based Premier, Inc., one of the country's largest group purchasing organizations. LabCorp's nationwide network of clinical reference laboratories now offers more than 4,000 diagnostic tests to member hospitals in the Premier network.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PRO FORMA FINANCIAL
INFORMATION AND EXHIBITS

(c) Exhibit
20 Press release of the Company dated July 15, 2002.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

LABORATORY CORPORATION OF AMERICA HOLDINGS

(Registrant)

By:/s/ BRADFORD T. SMITH

Bradford T. Smith
Executive Vice President
and Secretary

Date: July 15, 2002

Laboratory Corporation of America-Registered Trademark- Holdings
358 South Main Street
Burlington, NC 27215
Telephone: 336-584-5171

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: 336-436-4855
Pamela Sherry

Shareholder Direct: 800-LAB-0401
www.labcorp.com

LABORATORY CORPORATION OF AMERICA-REGISTERED TRADEMARK- SIGNS
GROUP PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH PREMIER

Burlington, NC, July 15, 2002 - Laboratory Corporation of America-Registered Trademark- Holdings (LabCorp-Registered Trademark-) (NYSE: LH) today announced that it has signed a national contract with San Diego-based Premier, Inc., one of the country's largest group purchasing organizations. LabCorp's nationwide network of clinical reference laboratories now offers more than 4,000 diagnostic tests to member hospitals in the Premier network.

"We are pleased with this significant new business opportunity to offer our full range of laboratory services to this extensive organization of health care providers," noted Stevan R. Stark, executive vice president of marketing and sales for LabCorp. "Our national presence and leading-edge testing technology, coupled with our capability to offer direct electronic connectivity to streamline ordering and result delivery, favorably position LabCorp to meet the testing and information needs of Premier's hospital members."

Premier is an alliance comprising 1,600 not-for-profit hospitals committed to improving healthcare quality, enhancing safety and reducing costs. The group's contracts provide for hospitals to purchase products at cost-effective pricing and terms.

The first national clinical laboratory to fully embrace genomic testing, Laboratory Corporation of America-Registered Trademark- Holdings (LabCorp-Registered Trademark-) has been a pioneer in commercializing new diagnostic technologies. As a national laboratory with annual revenues of \$2.2 billion in 2001 and over 19,000 employees, the company offers more than 4,000 clinical tests ranging from routine blood analyses to sophisticated molecular diagnostics. Serving more than 200,000 clients nationwide, LabCorp combines its expertise in innovative clinical testing technology with its Centers of Excellence. The Center for Molecular Biology and Pathology, in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, offers state-of-the-art molecular gene-based testing in infectious disease, oncology and genetics. Its National Genetics Institute in Los Angeles is an industry leader in developing novel, highly sensitive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods for testing hepatitis C and other blood borne infectious agents. LabCorp's Minneapolis-based ViroMed offers molecular microbial testing using real time PCR platforms, while its Center for Esoteric Testing in Burlington, North Carolina, performs the largest volume of specialty testing in the network. LabCorp's clients include physicians, state and federal government, managed care organizations, hospitals, clinics, pharmaceutical and Fortune 1000 companies, and other clinical laboratories.

Each of the above forward-looking statements is subject to change based on various important factors, including without limitation, competitive actions in the marketplace and adverse actions of governmental and other third-party payors. Further information on potential factors that could affect LabCorp's financial results is included in the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 and subsequent SEC filings.