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NEWS & VIEWS

Bringing you all the latest Business and Financial News and Views from the Science Industry

Binder Supports Medical Care in Peru

Binder GmbH has recently donated a temperature chamber to the Diospi Suyana Hospital in Curahuasi, southern Peru, where it will be used for microbiological and serological experiments and for coagulation tests.

The charitable Diospi Suyana Organisation was founded by Dr. Martina and Dr. Klaus-Dieter John in August 2002 in order to finance an ecumenical mission hospital. The facility aims to provide better medical care to the people of Peru, by helping to reduce the high infant mortality rate and low life expectancy resulting from poverty.

The work to complete this hospital, located in the Andes at an elevation of 8,500 feet, started in May 2005 and the building was inaugurated in October 2007. In presenting this donation, Peter Michael Binder, owner of Binder GmbH, noted that "many of Peru's population live in poverty and cannot afford medical care.

Under these circumstances, even a minor illness can be life-threatening. We are pleased to contribute to the success of the Diospi Suyana project and hope that our products will assist local doctors in establishing an appropriate work environment."



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Cenetron Implements Starlims for Clinical Trials

Cenetron Diagnostics Ltd, a specialist in molecular diagnostics has implemented the latest version of Starlims® Laboratory Information Management System, to help build and track clinical trial collection kits, manage samples and report results for global clinical trials being undertaken.

"The implementation of Starlims is an important milestone in Cenetron's history," said Dwight DuBois, MD, Cenetron's President. "We are able to meet and exceed FDA and sponsor requirements with enormous flexibility. Starlims is able to handle complex data sets generated from molecular testing with traceability, accuracy, and clarity. Starlims' scalability and versatility are also important, allowing us to add functionalities as our business grows. Our team is currently completing testing of another module that allows the storage, retrieval, and analysis of DNA sequencing data."

"We are delighted to see that our long-term collaboration has brought important benefits to Cenetron: full regulatory compliance, streamlining of lab process, and integration with a wide range of processes," said Ed Krasovec, Director of Clinical Operations at Starlims. "A series of other important players in the clinical space are implementing our solutions, and our presence in clinical trial, health care, and public health labs is growing at a tremendous rate," he added.

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Dominion Diagnostics Creates New Model for Drug Monitoring

Dominion Diagnostics LLC, Rhode Island, US, has announced an approach to clinical medication reporting that could enable physicians to better individualise treatment for patients in their care.

Scientifically Accurate Medication Monitoring (SAMMTM) includes a validated comprehensive screen for pain medications and their associated metabolites along with interpretation and support from the company's team of clinical pharmacologists and MD's. The reports contain information on prescribed and abused pain medications, also on the drug source.

In early 2006, Dominion was the first laboratory specialising in clinical quantitative urine drug testing for pain and addiction medicine, to

add liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) to its test menu through the acquisition of Waters® ACQUITY UltraPerformance LC® (UPLC®)TQD and Quattro micro™ Mass Spectrometry (MS) systems.

To meet patient pharmacotherapy demands in 2008, Dominion is said to be increasing its capacity to a total of 11 UPLC/MS/MS systems in its laboratory.

"Waters' technology and clinical applications expertise have enabled our business to get to another level in terms of the services, like SAMM, that we can offer our clients," said Dr. Frank Fornari, CEO of Dominion Diagnostics. "The technology has allowed us to create a

new model for clinical drug monitoring in pain management and addiction medicine."

Dr. Robert L. Barkin, an Associate Professor, Faculty of Anesthesiology, Family Medicine and Pharmacology, at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, commented; "Waters' solutions, coupled with Dominion's SAMM, offers the most comprehensive, scientifically-backed data that has ever been available to our industry.

Now that we have the ability to interpret individual patient pharmacotherapy with this information, we can better focus our efforts on improving the quality of life and functional status of both our patients and their families."

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Thermo Fisher Scientific Work with Canadian Fisheries

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the lead federal department responsible for Canada's fisheries resource, oceans and inland waters, is to implement a purpose-built Thermo Scientific Nautilus LIMS to facilitate research, development and understanding of Canada's three oceans, freshwaters and coastlines. It will be used in Science Sector laboratories across Canada, focusing initially on the National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP). After a five-year phased roll-out, more than 150 users operating out of 12 different laboratories located in seven facilities across Canada will be able to use the system. The volume of data managed will vary from program to program, but will initially reach more than 100,000 discrete samples yearly,

and this is expected to increase at a rate of approximately 25,000 samples per year. The DFO provides diagnostic services, test method development, regulatory research and expert scientific advice in collaboration with the Canadian Food inspection Agency.

"What an outstanding opportunity for Thermo Fisher Scientific to partner and work hand in hand with the Canadian government, in particular Fisheries and Oceans Canada, on their unique operations worldwide", says Greg Huelbig, Strategic Sales Executive for Thermo Fisher Scientific. "The installation of Thermo Scientific Nautilus LIMS will greatly add to DFO's efficiencies and help them do their many tasks with more confidence and reliability."

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Trade Partnership Agreement Signed at ArabLab 2008

The ARABLAB Group & CIMA, the China Instrument Manufacturer's Association, signed a trade partnership agreement at ARABLAB 2008 in Dubai. CIMA has over 1,000 member organisations, including manufacturers, research institutes, universities and colleges, which together account for 65% of China's instrumentation industry.

Each party will promote the other's exhibition: CISILE - China International Scientific Instrument & Laboratory Equipment Exhibition in Beijing in April 2009 (www.cisile.com.cn), and ARABLAB 2009 in Dubai in January 2009 (www.arablab.com).

Pictured are David Domoney, Managing Director of the ARABLAB Group, and Mr Cao Linhui, General Manager of the Beijing Lamp Exhibition Company, representing Mr Li Yueguang, Secretary General of CIMA.



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Collaboration Brings Commercial Application of X-ray Detector

The Medipix2 chip is a revolutionary photon counting X-ray detector, developed by the Medipix Collaboration. This project involves CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research) and PANalytical as well as other leading research institutes including Nikhef, the National Institute for subatomic physics in the Netherlands.

Medipix2 consists of a 300 \$B&L (Bm silicon detector layer, which is attached to a pixel read-out chip with 256x256 55 \$B&L (Bm square pixels. Medipix2 has applications ranging from materials analysis to medical imaging. Senior System Architect at PANalytical, Dr. Klaus Bethke, said: "PANalytical's role in the Medipix2 Collaboration has been to transfer the technology from CERN and develop it into a product. With the introduction of the PIXcel detector we have reached this important milestone".

The original aim of the Medipix2 collaboration was to develop the system for medical imaging, such as mammography and heart investigations. However, one of the many advantages of the Medipix technology is that it has a very broad industrial relevance, with applications ranging from cement to pharmaceuticals.

The company's work in developing PIXcel was recognised earlier this year, when Dr. Bethke, (pictured) was awarded a gold medal at the 35th International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva, Switzerland. The jury awarded the prize for the pioneering work to develop the PIXcel detector and for the company's overall contribution to the Medipix2 collaboration.



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Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators

Applications are invited for the 2008 Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators, presented by Eppendorf AG in partnership with the scientific journal Nature. Open to scientists no older than 35 years of age, the €15,000 prize is intended to encourage and support the work of promising European biomedical researchers.

According to Jörn Peplow, Eppendorf Corporate Communications, 'This prestigious prize was established in 1995 to celebrate Eppendorf's 50th anniversary, symbolising the close links between the company and the field of biomedicine. The criteria on which entries are evaluated include creativity, the ability to work independently, the significance of research results for the field of medicine and the successful practical application of the research approach.'

Applications for The Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators 2008, which must be submitted online at eppendorf.com/award by 30 June, need to include a short CV, a list of publications, a maximum of three papers to be evaluated

and a 300-word essay summarising the papers. The 2008 prize-winner will be selected by a completely independent committee chaired by Professor Kai Simons, Managing Director of the Max Plank Institute for Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden, Germany. Eppendorf will provide full support for the winner to attend the award presentation on 20 November 2008 at the Medica Congress in Düsseldorf, Germany.

The 2007 award was won by Dr Mónica Bettencourt-Dias, a group leader at the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência in Oerias, Portugal. Her pioneering research on centrosome biogenesis opens up new avenues for understanding cell cycle control and for cancer therapy.

Eppendorf UK, headquartered in Cambridge, is a subsidiary of Eppendorf AG, Hamburg, Germany, a leading global supplier of systems and research tools for the biotechnology industry. With over 1800 employees on four continents, Eppendorf AG achieved a turnover of £224m (€320.9m) in 2005 and operating profits (EBIT) of £35m (€50.4m).

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QIAGEN platform receives ALA Award

QIAGEN NV announces that its new modular platform for sample and assay processing, QIASymphony SP, has received the New Product Award (NPA) Designation of the Association for Laboratory Automation (ALA). The award was presented to QIAGEN at LabAutomation in Palm Springs, CA. QIASymphony SP, the result of the largest development program ever undertaken at QIAGEN, can be integrated to automate entire workflows in a broad range of molecular sample and assay applications the company said. The expert jury awarded the prize based upon following criteria: extraordinary technical originality, anticipated impact on the field of laboratory automation, supporting data that respects universal scientific methodology, and market demand.

In 2007 the Company received the ALA NPA Designation for its successful QIACube, sample processing platform. "Winning the ALA NPA Designation for the second time in a row makes us extremely proud," said Wolfgang Leibinger, Global Business Director Automated Systems at QIAGEN. "This is not only a most prestigious recognition of QIAGEN's innovation capabilities in automation technology and process standardisation. It also greatly rewards the dedication of the entire development and marketing teams standing behind this unique platform and it also gives further support to QIAGEN's commitment to developing highly innovative and enabling platforms."

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Biotek Instruments Celebrates 40 years

Biotek Instruments, Inc celebrates its 40th anniversary and continues to focus exclusively on microplate instrumentation and software.

Incorporated May 24, 1968 by physiologist Dr. Norman Alpert, Biotek Instruments originally provided test equipment solutions for hospitals and biomedical institutions launching its first microplate reader in 1981. "Biotek has been rapidly outpacing market growth rates, with a corresponding increase in reinvested profits," notes Briar Alpert, President and CEO of Biotek Instruments. "This success has greatly strengthened our organisation so that we are, now more than ever, positioned to increase the

productivity and capabilities of our customers."

An unusually high tenure of experience is identified as a principle element of the company's longstanding success, with 63% of employees having been at the company for greater than 5 years, and a voluntary turnover rate of 1%.

"Our philosophy is that business is not conducted between companies or institutions. Business is conducted between individuals," comments Mr. Alpert. "This is the tenor of how we work every day to serve our customers better."

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COMPANY NEWS

GE Healthcare to acquire Whatman

GE Healthcare, a unit of General Electric Company and Whatman plc have reached agreement on the terms of a recommended acquisition of Whatman by GE Healthcare.

The terms of the transaction, subject to approval by Whatman shareholders as well as customary regulatory approvals* value the global supplier of filtration products and technologies at approximately £363 million (approximately \$713 million.)

Joe Hogan, President and CEO GE Healthcare, commented, "Whatman is a great company with an outstanding track record of innovation, a strong reputation and brand with the research community, and highly talented employees.

Whatman's product offerings are highly complementary with our Life Sciences business; we believe that combining the skills and knowledge of the two businesses will create significant added value for our customers. Life Sciences is a key area of growth for GE Healthcare and expanding our skill base and product offerings in this area supports our vision of helping our customers to diagnose and treat disease earlier."

Commenting on the acquisition, Kieran Murphy, Chief Executive Officer of Whatman, said, "Whatman will benefit significantly from the business process expertise within GE Healthcare and in addition, Whatman's product opportunities within the pharmaceutical, diagnostic and forensics markets will have a greater chance of success within the larger GE Healthcare group. The Whatman management team very much looks forward to working with the GE Healthcare leadership to maximise the potential of this great business."

Peter Ehrenheim, President and CEO of GE Healthcare's Life Sciences business, said, "Whatman's expertise and reputation in filtration technologies and sample preparation is a great fit for our Life Sciences business because it brings new technologies that are fundamental to helping researchers increase their understanding of the role of genes and proteins in disease.

We believe that combining the skills of the two companies will enable GE Healthcare to create strong added value for customers in biomedical and drug discovery research."

*(at the time of going to press).

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Setaram Inc acquires HY-Energy LLC

Setaram Inc (Pensauken, NJ and Caluire, France), a leading manufacturer of Thermal Analysis and calorimetry instruments announces the acquisition of Hy-Energy LLC (Newark, CA), a manufacturer of high performance gas sorption scientific instruments for the ever-expanding field of clean renewable energy research.

"This acquisition adds a full suite of analytical capabilities which complement Setaram Instruments' existing Thermal Analysis and calorimetry product lines" said Gilles Widawski, President of Setaram Instrumentation, Caluire France, parent Company of Setaram Inc "Both Setaram's and Hy-Energy's current customers will benefit from the broader range of capabilities."

"The integration of Hy-Energy with Setaram further strengthens Setaram Instruments North American operations and provides us a physical presence on the West Coast, closer to many of our customers," said Gary Etherington, President of Setaram Inc. (USA).

"We are extremely pleased to become part of Setaram and enhance their calorimetry line with our gas sorption products," said Dr. Karl Gross, founder of Hy-Energy LLC. "With Setaram's worldwide distribution and service, the transaction will improve Hy-Energy's ability to sell to and service customers worldwide. I look forward to working with them to further develop our products and assist of our customers."

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Successful year for Uniqlis

Cambridge-based Uniqlis reported significant first year developments culminating with the first of its FlowSyn™ Continuous Flow Reactor systems installed in pharmaceutical development laboratories. Managing Director Martyn Fordham said "It's been an incredibly busy but rewarding year. The development team took FlowSyn from concept design and first prototype phases through to beta trial systems for pilot customers and now to the manufacture of fully standards-tested production models, and all in less than 12 months." Dr Mark Ladlow, a leading authority on flow chemistry has also joined the company as Chief Scientific Officer. Mark was until recently head of the GSK Cambridge Technology Laboratory based within the University of Cambridge. New distributors for FlowSyn have been appointed in France, USA, Italy and India.

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