

NEWS FROM THE TRISTEL COMPANY

19 February 2004

DTi research grant for Tristel

Generator for patented sterilant now in development

The Tristel Company Limited (Newmarket, England) is to receive up to £99,225 under the UK Department of Trade and Industry's Grant for Research and Development scheme. This award will support the development of a fully automated chlorine dioxide generator to enable Tristel's patented sterilisation technology to be used in applications requiring a continuous stream of sterilant. Applications include the control of biofilm development in dental unit water systems and in endoscope washer/disinfectors.

Tristel liquid sterilants have been widely adopted in the UK for the decontamination of sensitive medical instruments, including endoscopes, which cannot be heat sterilised. Widespread health and safety concerns surrounding the use of traditional glutaraldehyde disinfection have prompted a rapid move to safer - and more effective - sterilisation methods. Tristel instrument sterilants are now the method of choice in more than half of the country's NHS and private hospitals.

Tristel's patented chlorine dioxide technology has also been incorporated into a unique sterilising wipe, which was launched in December 2003 and is designed for the surface sterilisation of hard surfaces.

Commenting on the DTi grant, Tristel's managing director Paul Swinney said:

"The development of the Tristel Generator, which we anticipate will be completed by late summer, allows us to create a third group of products, adding water disinfection and sanitation to our instrument sterilants and surface sterilant ranges. We are actively seeking collaborators and distribution partners around the world to help us take this forward."

More...

“Infection control continues to be a high profile issue, in hospitals and in the community, and there is an enormous requirement for safe and effective sterilants for use in a variety of circumstances. Tristel products are proven alternatives to traditional sterilisation techniques and we are continuing to work on developing their application in many different areas. It is clear that for many applications chlorine dioxide must be available immediately at the time and at the location of use. Only the continuous supply of aqueous chlorine dioxide will suffice and with the Tristel Generator we will be able to meet this need”.

Mr Swinney went on to say that while the core market for the current range of Tristel products is in human healthcare, the company is receiving considerable interest from a number of areas including laboratories, veterinary practitioners, the food industry and others where hygiene issues are of paramount importance.

www.tristel.com

Ends

Press information

Trish Appleton
Kapler Communications Ltd
Suite 2, Cressner House
12 Huntingdon Street
St Neots
Cambridgeshire
PE19 1BD

Tel: +44 (0) 1480 471117
Fax: +44 (0) 1480 471118
trish@kapleronline.com

Please send enquiries to:

Polly Oates
The Tristel Company Limited
Lynx Business Park
Fordham Road
Snailwell
Cambridgeshire
CB8 7NY

Tel: +44 (0) 1638 721500
Fax: +44 (0) 1638 721911
mail@tristel.com
www.tristel.com

Notes follow....

BACKGROUND BRIEFING NOTES:

The need for water disinfection and sanitation

Example: Dental practise

In the dental practise, dental unit water lines carry water from the plumbing system (or other water supply) to high-speed hand pieces, ultrasonic scalers and air-water syringes. Microbial contamination is common in dental water lines. The handheld devices attached to the water lines can efficiently transmit bacteria from the water to the patients. The injection of chlorine dioxide into the water lines on an intermittent basis will kill bacteria and destroy biofilms.

Example: Endoscope washer/disinfectors

Endoscope washer/disinfectors typically use filtered water from the mains supply to rinse disinfectant off an endoscope prior to re-use of the instrument. It is common for the water, which should be bacteria-free, to be contaminated (as with dental water lines) due to the presence of biofilm in the plumbing system within the washer, or because of failure of the filter which should entrap the bacteria. The Tristel Generator will provide not only the means by which washer/disinfectors can be kept free from contamination, but also the means by which the rinse water itself can be dosed with low concentration chlorine dioxide to kill bacteria present in it.

The Tristel Company

Since it started operation as an infection control company in 1998 Tristel has become the leading supplier of liquid chemical sterilising solutions to UK hospitals. The cornerstone of the Tristel product range is a patented chlorine dioxide chemistry used to sterilise medical, dental and veterinary instruments.

Tristel products have emerged as the leading replacements for aldehyde-based disinfectants, which were the universal disinfectant of choice in all countries for over two decades. Health and safety, and environmental, concerns mean that aldehyde-based disinfectants are now being with drawn in many countries.

The new Tristel Sterilising Wipe is the world's first rapid action sporicidal wipe. The Wipe incorporates Tristel's patented chlorine dioxide chemistry. It can kill all organisms on a pre-cleaned surface, from which soil and organic matter have been removed, with a contact time of only 30 seconds. This means that non-lumened medical instruments that cannot be immersed in liquid disinfectants, and cannot be sterilised by heat, can now be decontaminated easily, quickly and safely. Examples of such instruments are ENT scopes and ultrasound transducers.