

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. George C. Clark

919-688-8334; 919-688-4804 or 1-800-DIOXINS

GeorgeClark@dioxins.com

www.dioxins.com

XDS INTRODUCES ITS NEW TECHNIQUE IN BELGIUM TO TACKLE FOOD CONTAMINATION

Durham, NC – September 20, 2000 – Xenobiotic Detection Systems has been selected by the Belgium government to help protect the country's residents and food supply from chemical contamination.

Belgium has licensed Xenobiotic's CALUX[®] technology for the detection of Dioxin-like compounds, which are the by-products of several industrial processes including the incineration of waste that contains chlorine. These dioxin-like compounds can be a hazard to the food supply because after they are produced they can be bio-concentrated and end up in processed animal feed, tissue and food samples.

Xenobiotic President Dr. George C. Clark and Dr. G. Thiers, Director of the Scientific Institute of Public Health of Belgium, recently signed a five-year licensing agreement after XDS won a Belgium-sponsored competition that included technology entries from six other companies.

"The awarding of the agreement by the Belgium government solidifies our technology as a firewall for the food chain," Clark said. "The Belgium government can now protect the food supply from contamination with the aid of XDS technology."

Dr. Clark and Michael Chu, XDS' Laboratory Director, recently installed the CALUX[®] technology at the Institute's laboratory headed by Dr. Leo Goeyens and Dr. Ilse Van Overmeire. The laboratory is now analyzing samples for levels of dioxin-like chemicals, which are routinely found in the environment and are known to cause birth defects, immunotoxicity, tumors, changes in metabolism, and even death.

XDS' technology detects the presence of dioxins, PCBs and dibenzofurans, which are all man-made compounds. XDS has genetically engineered mammalian cell lines to produce luciferase, an enzyme found in fireflies, when they are exposed to these compounds. The cells glow like a firefly when these chemicals are present.

In the U.S., XDS is pursuing validation of its dioxin assay with the FDA, the Department of Agriculture, the EPA, and the Centers for Disease Control.

XDS recently struck its first licensing agreement with Hiyoshi Corp. of Japan. Clark said licensing deals like the one with Hiyoshi and the Belgium government have helped to spread CALUX[®] technology and acceptance of this means to protect human and environmental health.

Founded in 1995, XDS was formed around technology pioneered by Michael S. Denison, a toxicologist at the University of California at Davis. Further development of the technology was supported by Phases I and II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

For more information call 1-888-D-I-O-X-I-N-S or visit our web site at www.dioxins.com.

® "Registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office"