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Contact: Dr. George Clark
919-688-4804 or 1-888-DIOXINS
GeorgeClark@dioxins.com
www.dioxins.com

Commerce Under Secretary Phil Bond Honors XDS for Export Achievements

Xenobiotic Detection Systems Taps European Market

Durham, NC - Thursday, August 15, 2002

Phil Bond, Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology, today presented Xenobiotic Detection Systems (XDS), of Durham, North Carolina, with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Export Achievement Certificate. The award recognizes companies that are business clients of the Department's Commercial Service and have benefited from the department's export assistance to make their first export sale or open new foreign markets.

"Most jobs in America are created by small businesses," Bond said. "Small and medium-sized companies like Xenobiotic Detection Systems comprise almost 97 percent of U.S. exporters. We are committed to giving the business community all the necessary tools to expand exports in the world marketplace, as our local office in Raleigh has been able to do for XDS."

Dr. George Clark, President of XDS said, "We greatly appreciate the work of the Department of Commerce's Export Assistance Center. They have been both attentive and helpful in getting European and Japanese market doors opened for our products and technology."

Xenobiotic Detection Systems (XDS) develops biological analysis methods that detect dioxin and dioxin-like chemicals at levels below one part per trillion. Dioxins are routinely found in the environment and are known to cause birth defects, immunotoxicity, tumors, and even death. They are by-products of several industrial processes including incineration of waste that contains chlorine. These dioxin-like compounds can end up in processed animal feed, tissue and food samples. Even very small dioxin concentrations can cause negative effects on human health and the environment.

Over the past several years, XDS has received assistance from the U.S. Commerce Department Commercial Service specialists at the U.S. Export Assistance Center in Raleigh, where the firm received advising on export licensing, global standards pertaining to biotechnology and overseas partner matchmaking. With this assistance, XDS recently announced its first significant breakthrough into the European market winning a Belgium government-sponsored competition that included analysis methods from six other international competitors. The new technology has been licensed to the Scientific Institute of Public Health of Belgium and will be used to tackle food contamination issues in Belgium.

Beltest, the research and accreditation service of the Belgium Government, further certified XDS's technology as a valid and reliable test for dioxin in July of this year. As a result of this certification, XDS's patented CALUX[®] bioassay technology is now an authorized method for dioxin and PCB detection throughout the European Union.

The U.S. Commercial Service is a Commerce Department agency that helps small and midsize U.S. businesses sell their products and services globally. Servicing approximately 850 business clients, the Raleigh center is part of the agency's worldwide network, which includes 108 U.S. Export Assistance Centers throughout the United States and more than 150 international offices.

Xenobiotic Detection Systems has been supported by Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants from the National Institute of Health.

For more information on the U.S. Commercial Service, please visit www.buyusa.com or call the U.S. Export Assistance Center in Raleigh 919-715-7373.

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