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BELGIUM GOVERNMENT CERTIFIES XDS TECHNOLOGY FOR DIOXIN TESTING

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BELTEST, the Belgium Government's accreditation service, has approved the Laboratory of Consumable Goods of the Scientific Institute of Public Health's use of Xenobiotic Detection Systems' (XDS) patented bioassay technology. The Belgian Institute of Public Health is using XDS's **C**hemical **A**ctivated **L**uciferase Gene **E**xpression (CALUX[®]) Lumi-Cell technology for the detection of chlorinated dioxins/dibenzofurans and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) to insure the safety of the nation's milk.

"We are delighted to receive this certification," says Dr. George Clark, President of XDS. "This means that our assay is recognized as a gold standard for evaluating the safety of milk in Belgium and the European Union. If there is a question about the safety of milk products from a dairy herd or a milk production facility, it can now be quickly, accurately, and economically analyzed for dioxin, and have these results recognized and accepted by the Belgian Government. We thank Dr. Leo Goeyens, Dr. Ilse Van Overmeire, Ir. Sophie Carbonnelle and their colleagues at the Institute, for their work in achieving this accreditation."

The Durham, North Carolina company's CALUX[®] Lumi-Cell technology was licensed to the Scientific Institute of Public Health of Belgium after XDS won a 1999 Belgium government-sponsored competition that included technology entries from six other companies.

Critical factors in the Belgian's selection of XDS were the 40% - 70% savings compared to traditional gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) analysis, the ability of the technology to detect dioxin at levels below one part per trillion (1 ppt) and the ability to analyze samples in days, as opposed to weeks with GC/MS.

XDS has also signed similar licensing agreements with the Arkansas Regional Laboratory of the US FDA (2002) and the Hiyoshi Corporation of Japan (2001).

Background:

Dioxins are routinely found in the environment and are known to cause birth defects, immunotoxicity, tumors, and even death. Dioxins are by-products of several industrial processes including incineration of waste that contains chlorine. These dioxin-like compounds and PCBs 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.

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