CBRNe WORLD

Spring 2010

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Arrested Development
FBI approaches to stopping the CBRN terrorist

Goin' loco
Brazilian and South American CBRN threats and capability

Auld Aquaintance
Welcoming the return of anthrax deaths

CBRNews

PRODUCT WATCH

Pittcon 2010
Pittcon, for those that don't know it, largely centres around lab-based equipment, and lots of it. There are about 1,000 stands and 30,000 delegates, but here and there are some absolute chemical gems. The Editor's first pick would be 1st Detect – www.1stdetect.com – with its man-portable ion trap mass spectrometer, which has recently had $1.8 million pumped into it by the Texan Emerging Technology Fund. Unlike other systems, this is properly man-portable, weighing in at 7kg and able to be held in the hand like other chemical detectors such as Raid, Cam and Chempro. Second would probably be Torion with its Guardion-7, which was everywhere (on at least three stands). A portable (25lb) GC-TMS, it has its own user-friendly sample collection system, and has been designed with PPE in mind. Third prize would go to Delta Nu for its range of raman detectors, especially its Rapid ID – another competitor seeking to unhorse Ahura (now of course Thermo Scientific) as lead runner in the raman race. Indeed, Pittcon was a wealth of raman detectors, all with their own unique selling points: Perkins Elmer with its Identicheck, and InPhotonics with its Inphotote, for example. The Editor was out-nerded by many orders of magnitude...

MedCM news
Elusys was awarded $143m for further development of its Anthim anthrax treatment. This is for final development, commercial manufacturing and licensing of Anthim, the late-stage therapeutic. DHHS will provide the money for the treatment that has shown a 94 per cent survival rate in animal studies.

Duke University, meanwhile, was awarded a $43m contract by the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to develop a genomic-based diagnostic test to determine whether an individual has been exposed to a radiation incident. Sounds like a good idea, *CBRNe World* will keep a weather eye.

In further anthrax treatment news, following last month's $143m award to Elusys, Pharmathene announced it has received $78m from DHHS for its SparVAx – which is reported to work before and after exposure.

More S10s for UK
While the UK MoD waits for the rollout of the General Service Respirator, Avon has sold another 16,000 S10s into the UK MoD. This is in addition to the three-year contract Avon had with the MoD in 2009 and is clearly nice, if unexpected, support from a customer that had gone with their competitor – Scott Health and Safety – for its next-generation mask. Avon Protection also presented the millionth S10 respirator to General Sir Kevin O'Donogjue – the UK's Chief of Defence Materiel. The S10 has been the stalwart of the Avon product line, though it is clearly having to see off competition from the M50 series, and has been in the inventory for 20 years.

A wild rover for many a year...
Qinetiq North America and Brewer Science and Applied Systems Intelligence are collaborating on an autonomous, self-deploying sensor that would act as a roving bio detector. Work on the programme is being undertaken at Jordan Valley Innovation Centre and is funded by the US Army Research Office as part of the DoD requirement for a tactical CB defence and intelligent network.

I propose to you...
Cristanini launched its new "Proposals for Operational CBRN Decon with different capabilities to decon personnel, vehicles, equipment, soil and fire fighting [sic]". It would be impossible to try and write about these proposals without reproducing the diagrams – and describing them would be a little like ventriloquism on the radio – so the best thing for those interested parties is to contact the company directly at cristanini@cristanini.it

I for improved
Chempro 100i was launched by Environics, boasting an improved number of chemicals detected thanks to an additional six sensors. They now include pressure, flow, FE and MOS-1/2/3, which means, with its expanded TICs library, it can detect things like ammonia and chlorine. Also for the US market, the system comes with an extended warranty for normal repairs and maintenance for the first five years.

First bees, now cockroaches...
Texas A&M researchers have found the answer to the question that has been plaguing all of us – how do you do radiation survey in an area that is too hot for human life. The answer: remote control cockroaches. Yes, all you people who said UAV/UGVs are so wrong – it's cockroaches. Attaching three different radiation sensors and a communication device allows them to send back their reports from up to a kilometre away. Just when I thought that I couldn't get any angrier about bees, another insect comes along...

Turkish lab
Spanish company Indra notched up a contract to provide the Turkish Ministry of Defence with a CBRN mobile lab. The $4m

CBRNe Convergence 2010, 2-5 November, Rosen Plaza, Orlando, Florida. More information on www.icbrnevents.com