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Poland Selects Xenobiotic Detection Systems for Biotechnology License

Durham, NC – January 18, 2005 – Xenobiotic Detection Systems' (XDS) patented XDS CALUX[®] technology has been selected by the Government of Poland as a screening tool for detection of chemical contamination of the food supply. This is the first licensing of XDS dioxin detection technology to Poland and the third license in the European Union for the North Carolina company.

Dr. Tadeusz Wijaszka, Director of the National Veterinary Research Institute in Pulawy, Poland signed the licensing agreement to use the XDS CALUX[®] bioassay for the detection of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds. Dioxins, recently in the news concerning the dioxin poisoning of Ukrainian President-elect Viktor Yushchenko, are toxic compounds routinely found in trace amounts in the environment. However, dioxins can bio-accumulate and be concentrated in the food supply leading to human exposure. Dioxins are known to cause birth defects, tumors immunotoxicity, and death.

XDS President, Dr. George Clark announced the licensing agreement with the Polish National Veterinary Research Institute. "We are excited to welcome the National Veterinary Research Institute into the XDS family. Once again rigorous comparison with other technologies by a potential client shows XDS CALUX[®] as a superior dioxin detection tool. We welcome their scientists to North Carolina for XDS CALUX[®] training and look forward to working with the National Veterinary Research Institute."

Following the month-long training, Polish scientists Drs. Sylwia Stypula-Trebas and Pawel Trebas, will return to Poland and will meet there with XDS staff later this spring for the laboratory installation and validation. These steps will complete the initial XDS CALUX[®] training and licensing program.

XDS has genetically engineered mammalian cell lines to contain the gene for luciferase, an enzyme fireflies use to produce light. In the XDS CALUX[®] process, firefly luciferase is produced when dioxin-like chemicals are present. The amount of light produced is directly related to the amount of dioxin-like chemicals. Using XDS's patented separation techniques, it is possible to additionally differentiate between dioxin and PCB contamination. XDS CALUX[®] technology has been repeatedly proven to accurately and reliably measure dioxins at less than one part per trillion in food, soil, fish and many other matrices.

Development of XDS CALUX[®] technology was supported by Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

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