



Media Release

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Speedy field detection of pathogens – results in less than six hours

Rapid Detection Pty Ltd has been awarded a COMET grant for the development of its business in field based rapid detection technology of micro-organisms and chemicals.

The technology uses a combination of sophisticated biotechnologies to create a novel reactor and sensor system. These can detect the presence of pathogenic organisms or chemical contamination in water, food, industrial or point-of-care situations in less than six hours. The technology platform can be also applied to many existing test systems as well as new test systems.

The Australian Government COMET grant recently awarded for the business development of an automated system for the rapid in-field detection of pathogens will boost Rapid Detection Pty Ltd move into selected markets. The company is commercialising microbial diagnostics and detection systems arising from research conducted by the Environmental Biotechnology CRC Pty Limited.

“These ‘next generation’ technologies will provide significant efficiency improvements to many industries. They will be cost effective and we are expecting to turn around results presently achieved in twenty four to forty eight hours in less than six hours, and in certain high contamination situations within even shorter timeframes”, said Dr. Brenton Hamdorf, CEO of Rapid Detection.

“Many different industries, including the environmental, water, food quality and safety sectors as well as pharmaceutical and biomedical industries will benefit from the speedy results provided by this technology”.

The simple-to-use system will provide results directly to portable devices via simple electronic readouts, laptops and PDAs. The system will be based on Rapid Detection’s proprietary technology, which integrates sample preparation and analysis and will be applicable for the detection of a broad range of organisms for example common water borne contaminants such as faecal coliforms, *E.coli*, legionella, *cryptosporidium* and *giardia*.

“By providing a robust, high specificity result in the field or at the point of care, the system will enhance the early detection and management of disease outbreaks”, Dr. Hamdorf continued.

“The award of this grant and the support of our development partners provide a good endorsement of Rapid Detection’s technology. This grant is also an important milestone for the company as it is an independent recognition of the potential of the technology. We are convinced we will be able to deliver a system that rapidly and simply delivers quality results in the field”, Dr. Hamdorf concluded.

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For more information please contact
Dr Brenton Hamdorf 02 9209 4973 or 0400 361 219
Email: rapiddetection@ebcrc.com.au