

CBRN News

PRODUCT WATCH

Indra launch CBRN arm

Indra, Spain's largest defence company, has decided to involve itself in the CBRN market. They have launched a R&D programme with projects in stand-off detection, radiometers, field labs and early-warning systems. They have also launched their own CBRN rece system, which has been developed for Spain's Civil Guard, a mobile lab for the Spanish army, as well as their C4i system. CBRN has always suffered (or enjoyed, depending on your viewpoint) from a shortage of major defence players (Lockheed Martin being the exception), so it will be interesting to see how well Indra survives on the small-fry contracts of the CBRNE world.

Sold!

Bruhn Newtech announced both new owners and a new direction, when they were bought in the middle of October. A group of private investors, which included the management team of Bruhn, a software company called Gatehouse, a piezosensor company called Ryan Holdings and the IMK private fund, have decided that they will strengthen their C4i products and to increase their share of the homeland security market. This decision is to bring their "solutions based on experience and technological leadership," said their CEO, Jacob Nielsen, yet presumably this will revolve around their warning and reporting and software systems. This is always going to be a tougher market to crack. Nato, with its A E/T P45, allows a certain amount of framework that companies can base their products on – and this has been the basis of Bruhn's military success – but this is missing in civilian requirements and will see Bruhn taking on a far wider, and less specialised, group of opponents.

As evidence of this new focus, Bruhn announced their participation in an EDS-primed project called Firecontrol. This will see Bruhn get a share of the £300 million contract to provide their hazard prediction software to the UK's nine regional control centres.

Smiths Detection News

Smiths announced that they would be providing Advanced Air Cargo Security Equipment for Lufthansa Cargo at all

of its 19 US airports. Lufthansa would be deploying the IonScan 500DT as an explosive-trace detector. Lufthansa is following directives set down by the TSA to ensure that all cargo aircraft are scanned. They also launched their FirstView iSC3 (Intelligent Sensor Command, Control and Communication) platform for controllable cameras and sensors at critical infrastructure. Currently in use by the DHS and DoD, it can integrate legacy systems – CBRNE, Access Control, Video, CCTV etc – to allow a seamless security package. HPRID, their High Performance Radio Isotope Identifier, was also unveiled at the ASIS show. HPRID allows the user to differentiate between benign radiation and "threat" radiation, even if the latter is hidden behind a "hot" source of the former.

In a busy month for Smiths, they also launched their MMTD – Multi Mode Threat Detector. MMTD is an explosive, narcotics and chemical detector that can also be used to detect peroxide explosives and will provide results in less than 10 seconds. Finally, there was the launch of new Sabre Centurion II, which allows CWA and TICs detection. Centurion II is a fixed-site IMS detector that can be networked with up to 70 other sensors and the FirstView system. Centurion II is supposed to be easier to maintain than its predecessor and comes with an extended library. They also, finally, announced a \$6 million order from the Transport Security Administration for their IonScan 500DT explosive detector for US airports. The IMS desktop device was the first dual explosive detector to be placed on the TSA's Qualified Products List.

Air cooled

WI Gore launched their Active Cooling vest, a two-layer ensemble that has air pumped through the layers to lower the thermal load. The air is cooled by a 150W blower and offers 8.5 hours of battery-powered cooling, and has a low audio signature. The vest can be integrated with other garments and even worn under body armour.

The new series of ER!

Inficon have introduced their new Hazmat ER VOC detector. Hazmat ER now determines the correct sampling distance to get high-quality results; it

also offers sample inlet options with pre-installed operating methods and also has a shorter run time and lower consumable usage. They also announced an order from DoD for an additional \$1.65 million worth of their Hapsite chemical detectors. This is part of their "Hot Swap" programme that allows them to maintain operational readiness of Hapsite and Hapsite components in the field.



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MSA News

MSA launched two new products too. The first was their Altair 5 multigas detector, which also has a motion-alert sensor fitted. The latter, when enabled, allows a "man down" alarm if there is no movement for more than 30 seconds, and has only three buttons for ease of use with thick gloves. Its miniature catalytic combustion sensors will detect 100% of combustible gases and its electrochemical duo-tox hydrogen sulphide/carbon monoxide sensor also allows another sensor slot – such as ammonia, chlorine, phosphine or cyanide etc.

MSA also launched their AirHawk II respirator, which is mainly for industrial applications, but is a low-cost product with the option of using advanced features such as twin Advantage canisters and an audible end-of-service-time indicator.

Tide is high

Veritide announced their new handheld biological detector – a new company and information can be found on www.veritide.com. Their "Ceeker" uses non-invasive UV light and detection algorithms to identify bacterial spores. Developed to deal

with white-powder threats, it already detects anthrax and the team are hoping to adapt it to detect botulinum toxin and ricin.

Tex appeal

Bluecher, manufacturers of Saratoga, announced that they had bought the semi-permeable membrane company Texplorer. This will give them feet in both the SPM and carbon markets (if they can get an impermeable suit then they would have the unique ability to have a "foot" in three markets!) and will give them an indomitable position in the future soldier (IDZ) project in Germany.

Valour – IT

Previously we have given recommendations on other charities, and CBRNe World would like to offer a similar recommendation for Project Valour IT (<http://soldiersangels.org/index.php?page=project-valour-it>). Project Valour IT produces voice-controlled laptops to soldiers that have had hand/arm wounds or other serious injuries. Considering how many casualties of the sort are caused by IEDs we would recommend that people dig deep. The problem is not going to go away.

THREAT WATCH

Chemical Tiger?..

There is no doubt that government forces in Sri Lanka have put the LTTE, or Tamil Tigers, under extreme pressure and that this might bring an end to conventional military operations. As a result of this pressure, the Sri Lanka *Daily Star* has quoted army sources stating that the Tamil Tigers have launched "poisonous gas attacks" to try to retard the army's offensive. The same sources suggested that this "poisonous gas" had been a riot-control agent, which the troops had withstood. LTTE sources have been promising gas attacks, and doomsday weapons, on government forces for the last 18 months and we hope that this, if true, is the limit of them.

Porton's away-days

Brigadier Chip Chapman, Director of Counter Terrorism and UK Ops, told the UK's House of Commons Defence Committee that Porton's Immediate Response Teams had been called out "a number of times". Quite what this number was, and under what circumstances, he was not able to confirm for "security reasons." Lord West, the security minister, said that he didn't know where all the troops that could be deployed on operations were, but was sure that he could "straight away" if needed in an emergency. He also stated that he didn't know how many hospital beds

would be made available for a mass-casualty event – but that the Department of Health would know. Wonderful old "muddle through" Britain. Sadly the Committee didn't ask what these military troops were going to do and whether they were suitably trained, neither was Lord West asked how many intensive-care beds or isolation wards there were or even what would happen to all the previous owners of those beds. "Make Do and Mend" shall be our watchword...

Going down?

Mafalec, a French company involved in the manufacture of lift buttons, sparked a national scare after 600 Otis lifts were refurbished with new cobalt 60 buttons! The cobalt is alleged to have been part of a shipment of contaminated material from India and 20, out of 30, workers at the plant were found to have radiation higher than legal safe limits. I wonder how many ports with radiation detectors those buttons went through...?

Number Two!

South Korea became the second possessor state to destroy its stockpile of chemical munitions in October. Albania was the first, and now South Korea is leaving India, Libya, the US and Russia in its wake. Admittedly Albania destroyed 16 tons, and South Korea a little over 3,000 tons (compared to stockpiles in Russia, 40,000, and the USA, 31,000), but this is still a major feather in OPCW's cap and a real benefit to the region. It will certainly put increased pressure on North Korea to follow suit – or at least to do something positive!

Meanwhile the OPCW announced that Russia had destroyed 30% of its CWA, Russia claimed that it was "the highest among other states". The USA's comments on this last claim were not recorded.

Dead Man's Chest

Whatever was in the ship MV Iran Deyanat, it was certainly not pieces of eight. What is known is that the ship was captured by Somali pirates on 21 August and unloaded in Rotterdam, via Oman, on 11 November. The bit in the middle seems to be a froth of theories. Certainly one of the most popular is that there was radioactive sand sold to the Iranians by the Chinese, with the plot uncovered by Russian media. My word Moneypenny! This sand was to be exploded once exiting the Suez Canal, thus covering Israeli cities with radioactive material. Apart from the probity of the Russian media, the other "confirmatory" factor was the "fact" that 16 Somali pirates died – after hair loss – following their opening of sealed drums in the hold. These "facts" were touted by Puntland's

Minister of Materials and an online blog quoting unnamed sources. Lloyd's List however denied, according to the Charterer, that any pirates fell ill and that the Deyanat unloaded food and minerals. Clearly there could be no Intelligence agency at work suggesting that Iran, with China's help, might be about to attack Israel with radioactive sand. While there might be something murky going on, it is more likely to be black propaganda.

If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck...

The IAEA said that the building in Syria bombed by the Israelis in September had features resembling those of a nuclear reactor. While they suggested that the al-Kibar site could have been used for other, non-nuclear, purposes, it was difficult to ascertain as the Syrians had now built on top of the site and were denying any more investigative trips – clearly a sign of innocence! Syria has also not produced the documentation that the IAEA has requested (still waiting for the ink to dry no doubt), but it appears that the uranium found at the site was not used in weapons' production. Since the site was not operational, this is not a surprise, and Syrian agencies have suggested, and common sense avers, that the radiation came from the type of munition released by the Israeli air force (some form of bunker buster with DU elements would seem likely). The IAEA is still asking for transparency from all parties involved, but this can only be seen as a vote for military action and against the IAEA.

The system works...

A Texas man, Jeffrey Detrixhe, pleaded guilty, and faces 25 years in prison for trying to sell a 25-gallon drum of sodium cyanide. What Detrixhe didn't know was that he was selling it to a FBI agent – along with a thermal imager and assault rifle (surely no good Texan could be without an assault rifle?) – for \$10,000. This is good news all round. We hope the message will go out to all the various nuts and criminals who are trying to make a buck out of "WMD" that there is a good chance of getting caught.



Next stop the Hague ©CBRNe World