

CBRN News

PRODUCT WATCH

MADD 1 tell you!

EADS announced their partnership with Pursuit Dynamics for the TransMADDs system. EADS is acting as systems integrator and bringing their experience of military requirements and mobile shelter technology, while Pursuit Dynamics are bringing their PDX/Atlas system. The latter is the driving force of the offering – a nozzle that provides an ultrafine mist ideal for biological decontamination of buildings and hard-to-reach enclosed spaces. Tests with the major research centres are ongoing.



Pursuit's new decon nozzle

DetectBio awarded

The French army's biological detection system, DetectBio, was awarded to the EADS consortium in March. The 35million Euro contract is split into two parts: SAMOA – composed of EADS, Proengin (with their MAB) and Bertin (with their Coriolis), and FIDGI – NBC Sys and Bertin. SAMOA is the detection side of the contract, with EADS acting as systems integrator, while FIDGI is an eight-year contract for the supply, development and storage of reagents and other consumables. Expect to see more on this project in forthcoming editions of *CBRN World*.

Scent of an (explosive) lady

Scent Detection Technologies (SDT) launched their next-generation explosive and narcotics vapour

detector at the Global Security Asia show. Their MN2000 uses QCM detection and, as such, does not require a radioactive source – like IMS based devices. The MN2000 has an expandable library, a vapour suction device and is “battlefield” rugged. SDT work closely with Israeli Military Industries and had some of their detection systems at the Beijing Olympics. Perhaps in recognition of this, Frost and Sullivan voted SDT as their 2009 Explosives and Narcotics Trace Detection product line of the year.

It's a rollover

Avon Protection was pleased to announce a three-year contract, worth £4.5million, for a sustained supply of S10 respirators for the UK MoD. Due to a technical issue and then specifications creep, the UK's new GSR has been slightly delayed – though is still expected to be in production in 2009 – which means the UK needs to purchase S10s to fill up the logistics shortfall. Avon's new contract has the potential to expand from £4.5 to £10million over the three years and, added to their work on the M50 must have made quite a nice month.

Becoming management

UK firm Oldbury (www.oldbury.co.uk) also unveiled their new CBRN Scene and Incident Management equipment at the Global Security Asia show. These are fully mobile, trailer-based systems that allow military and civil responders to do a range of tasks in a CBRN or riot environment. The system is deployable in about four minutes, can be up-armoured for ballistic and blast protection and can be towed behind a conventional 4x4. Oldbury also have a personnel decon package that can either be fitted as needed onto a specialist trailer, or as a fixed capability.

The Pork Gravy Train

As the fear of H1N1 suffocates the media and susceptible elements of the population, commercial companies are coming up with solutions. Veredus Labs, based in Singapore, have updated their VereFlu chip to include the Mexican “swine”

flu variant. Vereflu goes into their lab-on-a-chip system, VereID, which also has other chips for the more likely BWA under their VereThreat label.

Mr Smith is flying with Concordia

Smiths Detection announced that Concordia International Forwarding Corp had chosen their range of explosive trace detectors to meet the TSA requirement. Concordia has 15 US sites that will be using the Ionscan 500TD. This is needed to meet the 2009 mandate of 50 per cent screening of air cargo, which will be replaced by a 100 per cent requirement in 2010.

Smiths also announced the “global launch” of three “new” devices (some of which are very familiar): the HazmatID Ranger, the Bioesq Plus and LCD 3.3. While Ranger and Bioesq plus have been covered previously, LCD 3.3 builds on the LCD range and offers advantages over 3.2E. 3.3 now offers agent type and concentration through the LCD, the GUI now has a “cell phone-like” menu and the processor has been updated to provide it with upgrade and “stretch” capacity.

Platinum prize

Alexium announced it has been declared 2009's World's Best Technology at the World's Best Technology Showcase, beating out 90 other pre-screened finalists. Alexium is working on Reactive Surface Technology, an off-shoot of Air Force Research Lab technology, that is self extinguishing, superhydrophobic, oleophobic and reactive to CWA. RST is based on silane technology that was first used in the 1940s, but these are now bonded using microwaves rather than heat. This is not a plasma coating, however, as it allows multiple value added functions, such as active enzymes, to be added to the weave. More information to follow...

Argon's nuclear ambition

Argon Electronics launched the latest in their range of training devices with their version of the SAM935/940 spectrometer from PGT/Berkeley Nuclearics. Replacing the external detector probe with the simulator allows responders to practice with the

device in full safety on individually tailored missions. Argon also launched their Thermo EPD-Mk2 dosimeter simulator, which enables dose management training to be undertaken.

One suit to rule them all!

The USAF has selected Saint-Gobain's OneSuit Gard suit for its hazmat personnel in Iraq. OneSuit Gard is certified to NFPA 1991, has a single skin design, extended shelf life and is stated to keep wearers safe and manoeuvrable.



Saint Gobain's new suit for USAF ©SG

Thermo Fisher announce expanded distribution with ICX

Thermo Fisher will now be distributing all of ICX's radiation product lines. The two companies have worked together over the past 15 years, from when ICX was still Target Instruments, and this constitutes a major push for Identifinder (as well as Interceptor, Raider, etc) in the US.

Candygram for MUNGO

Krauss Maffei Wegman (KMW) has been announced as the manufacturer of the new German lightweight NBC recon vehicle. KMW will produce 25 of their NC Mungo recon vehicle. The air-portable vehicle will start trials in 2010.

RiskAware

RiskAware, the UK-based effects modelling company, announced a \$62million contract with the US Navy Space and Naval Warfare Command (Spawar) to produce techniques for performance improvements and risk reduction for JEM. The work will be done in the UK and will be finished by 2012.

CBIRF launch new mobile lab

USMC CBRN search and extraction specialists CBIRF unveiled their new mobile lab to the US public. The system has been designed to be used by highly trained Marine operatives, rather than scientists, and utilises a number of new features. One of these is the use of sorbent tubes; by attaching them to Marines' coveralls they are hoping to have a wide net that can capture samples.

Sounds good

Sicel Technologies has announced a strategic partnership with Gentag to create the first passive (ie no battery), disposable RFID radiation detector for shipping. These sensors will detect radiation using Sicel's medical radiation detectors and Gentag's modified cell phone technology. Gentag is convinced their sensor mesh technology will work equally well on the chemical threat. Stay tuned for more information...

THREAT WATCH

Nuke is the word...

May was clearly the month for nuclear activity. April ended with US and Russian nuclear talks on replacing START I, that was signed in 1991 and runs out in December. This was followed in mid-May with US claims that Pakistan was increasing its nuclear arsenal, which were exacerbated by the appalling internal security situation in Pakistan. Finally, and most importantly, North Korea decided to move to the brink by more nuclear testing, the firing of two short-range missiles and extremely strong language. The UN Security Council has condemned the action and the breaking of resolution 1718, and spoken of sanctions, yet this seems to have had little to no effect. What is behind it – a strengthening of the military grip as Kim sickens or a snub to South Korea after a breakdown in relations after they joined US naval counter-proliferation (PSI) efforts? Whatever the response is, it will be a new chapter, far from detente and rapprochement.

Leaky fish

A Scottish National Party MP, Angus Robertson, has called for an enquiry after it has been shown that the UK nuclear submarine base at Faslane had suffered from security breaches including radioactive leaks. The Scottish Environment watchdog, Sepa, admitted it would have shut the base if it could, and this is not

the first time Scotland and the MoD have clashed heads. Scottish nationalist MPs use the RN base as a stick to hit central government with, and the MoD's inability to do anything about it suggests this stick will get heavier – though it is still likely to leave few marks...

Getcha' dirty bombs here!

Yet another attempt to sell radiological material in Eastern Europe has been foiled. As opposed to the promised fissile Plutonium 239, it is suggested, after initial analysis that the material was, in fact, Americium 241. An order of magnitude difference, perhaps, but they were trying to sell 8lb of the material – a not inconsiderable amount – for \$10million. Sadly, even during times of recession, \$10million is not a huge amount of money for the tooled up terrorist, and the concern is how many of these are we not picking up?

More EC money sprayed at CBRN

The European Commission has adopted a new three-year programme to fight terrorism, trafficking and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction – the catchily entitled 2009-2011 Indicative Programme for the Instrument for Stability (I mean really, does that make the acronym I-PIS?! Pay that acronym monkey more, for God's sake...). As opposed to tightly focused streams, I-PIS is spraying all over the threat spectrum – organised crime, terrorism, smuggling and counter-proliferation. We shall have to wait to see whether it ends in any solid results.

Check the post would you dear...

Fort Detrick is missing some disease samples – now does that scenario seem familiar? Criminal Investigation Division is investigating where, oh where, they could be. No other details have been released, such as what pathogens are involved. We'll all just have to wait and see...

Gongs awarded

The Baltimore Federal Executive Board recognised three ECBC employees in its 2009 Excellence in Federal Career Awards programme. These were: Peter Annuziato, who will be known to some of you for the work he has done on CUGR; Dr Virpin Rastogi, who is extremely well known in decon circles for, among other things, his work on enzymes; and Lalena Wallace for her work on bio-assays, specifically ricin. Well done all!