

Gothenburg Show Preview

Welcome to the Gothenburg Show Preview. This will give you an early overview of the events, product launches and personnel that you can expect to see at the CBW Symposium in Gothenburg (May 22-25). Information on exhibitors can be found on www.cbwsymp.foi.se

Bags O' Protection

Remploy Frontline, Stand CO2 09, will be showing two new items of PPE: the Cougar and the CBRN fatality bag. Cougar is Remploy's foray into the lower physiological burden/high temperature/humidity market suit market currently held by Paul Boye. This permeable suit claims to "outstrip anything else in terms of the balance of weight-versus-protection ratio" – a claim which will, no doubt, see their stand mobbed by indignant competitors. The lightweight market is a burgeoning one and Remploy is clearly trying to increase their share of the PPE market.

This is also helped by the addition of their CBRN fatality bag. While this is not perhaps the most politically correct item, it will be essential in any non-conventional CBRN event. With a padded liner to absorb juices, and a filtered valve to allow clean air to vacate the bag (to stop it exploding) it is an essential, if emotional, addition to their PPE range.

The family compact

NBC Sys will be introducing two new products: their Bioprotect hood and their Air Filter: Compact. The former is a hood for medical personnel and is designed to offer a high degree of protection without the restrictions on sight or protection that are found at either end of the facelet/respirator scale. The hood has a blower to allow comfort, and it has been ergonomically designed for civilian medical personnel to perform operations and other medical activities. The escape hood market is well supplied, but the fact that the hood has a PAPR filter, as opposed to bottled air or a filter, may well attract other emergency service personnel too.

NBC Sys will also have a new air filtration unit, the Air Filter Compact, which is designed for small, soft skinned/lightweight vehicles. The unit is apparently inexpensive, easy to use and integrate and uses the filter unit that they have previously supplied for the Leclerc and VBCI. Expect this to be the next "must have" item for those film stars that have "tricked out" Humvees!

NBC Sys will also be showcasing the new "direction", as they enter into the systems integration and systems engineering realm. Drawing on the skills from their other Nexter (what used to be Giat) partners, Nexter Systems, Vehicles, Munitions, electronics etc, they see this as a way of achieving whatever the user wants and allowing them to compete with other prime contractors.

The silver screen

Idaho Technology will be showcasing a new bio identifier called, as a working title, their Film Array. This is a system that will do automatic sample preparation for 120 organisms

at a time in one hour. This is from a liquid sample introduced to the system; the liquid can be blood, saliva, stool, etc. Only one sample will be needed to do all the biological agents and toxins, it weighs under 20lb, is automated internally and can be either battery or mains powered.

Idaho's Film Array system is likely to be their bid for the US' JBAIDS successor and uses ceramic beads to mill the sample to form a lysate. The sample then undergoes a nucleic-acid purification process, which is fully automated and requires no reagents. Once the sample is prepared, it is processed via a nested multiplex PCR process. JBAIDS has been an item of interest for a number of nations and a smaller, lighter and automated process is likely to pique this information even further.

Oh no it isn't...

Allen Vanguard will be stalking the corridors of Gothenburg with their BombTec Defender EOD robot. On Thursday 24 May at 15.00 they will have a live demonstration of their UGV surveying a suspect package of chemicals. There will be live feed from the UGV back to their stand and there will be audience participation in the decision-making of the response.



Elemental!

Argon Electronics will be showing new developments in three of their products: the new Nascap repeater unit, a new variant of PlumeSIM and a S4PE Sim to be used with their AP2C Sim. Nascap is Argon's Network Alarm System Central Alarm Processor and allows the user to link together a network of detectors and turn them into a training aid. Currently the system works to 1km in a heavily built-up urban area and 3km in a less constrained environment. The Nascap repeater would allow the system to reach out to a total of 9km. PlumeSim is Argon's virtual plume system that can be linked to their other simulators to provide a higher degree of reality and allow large-scale exercises and an upgrade to this software will be displayed. Argon Electronics have been well established with their simulators of well known detectors, but recently their training aids have taken off in a more dynamic direction and we look forward to further developments with interest.