Environmental Biotechnology
Cooperative Research Centre

Suite G01 Bay 3
Locomotive Workshop Bldg
EVELEIGH NSW 1430
AUSTRALIA
(02) 9209 4969
info@ebcrc.com.au, www.ebcrc.com.au

News release

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Simple solution triumphs over complex diagnostic problem

Rapid in-field diagnostic devices developed by Environmental Biotechnology CRC researchers based at Murdoch University in Perth will detect the presence of pathogenic organisms in water, food, industrial or point-of-care situations in less than six hours.

Researchers have used smarter design rather than complicated technology to develop clever solutions to complex problems. The diagnostic platform is also remarkably adaptable to many existing tests making the number of potential applications very diverse.

“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 project leader Dr Simon Reid.

“We are currently working on optimising our coliform (*E. coli*) assay that is the basic test used to confirm that food and water is safe for human consumption”. “We have also started commenced gathering preliminary data from a number of other tests in both the environmental and human health fields”.

“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 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* .

An Australian Government COMET grant was recently awarded for the business development of an automated system for the rapid in-field detection. This grant is an important milestone for the company as it is an independent recognition of the potential of the technology.

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To arrange an interview with Dr Simon Reid and Dr Will Ditcham on 20 Nov in Perth, or to find out more, please contact:
Ms Michaela Lauren on 0417 260603 or m.lauren@ebcrc.com.au
Marketing and Communications Manager, EBCRC