

Press Conference

Analytica 2004
Munich Fair, Germany

**Reference Materials producers
launch new European Initiative**

11 May 2004 -12:00 h

**Conference room B13, First floor, Hall B1
Neue Messe Munchen**

www.erm-crm.org

ERM stand : Hall A1, booth 250

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Pre-Information to the Press

Public confidence in the results of chemical and biological measurements is important in many aspects of modern society, including consumer protection in food consumption, health-care, environmental protection, and fair trade. Reference materials are cornerstones of modern quality assurance of such measurements. To enhance further the quality, the reliability and the available range of such reference materials, three major European producers have decided to join their forces at a new level of international co-operation. The Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM), an institute of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, LGC of the United Kingdom and the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) of Germany have established the European Reference Material (ERM) concept and will launch it to the public at Analytica 2004.

Certified Reference Materials with the new trademark ERM[®] fulfil harmonised quality criteria based on modern international guidelines. Professor Hendrik Emons (IRMM) will explain the aims and opportunities of the ERM concept. Moreover, he will illustrate with the example of ERMs for genetically modified food how such reference materials contribute to the surveillance of the implementation of EU legislation.

Dr. John Marriott (LGC) will give an overview of the range of ERMs developed to support measurements related to environment and health, with a specific focus on the development of reference materials for low sulfur fuels. In order to reduce environmental pollution, the level of sulfur in fuels is being progressively reduced by European legislation. In collaboration with the oil and petroleum industry, the ERM partnership is developing a range of materials to help with sound analysis at the lower levels, thus supporting corresponding environmental regulations.

Professor Irene Nehls (BAM) will introduce different kinds of metals and alloys as Certified Reference Materials. Two of the newest materials that fulfil the ERM[®] quality criteria are based on the alloys used for the production of the new EURO coins. The exact compliance with the legal specifications for these alloys forms the basis for the verification of adulteration of coinage and for the identification of coins in vending machines. Therefore, the reference materials are important instruments for coin producers to ensure the quality of their products and to control the correctness of their specifications.

About LGC

LGC (www.lgc.co.uk) is Europe's leading independent analytical laboratory providing advanced chemical, biochemical and forensic analysis, diagnostic services, DNA testing and genetic screening, research, method development, consultancy, training and analytical outsourcing. LGC operates in a diverse range of markets, in both the public and private sectors, including foods, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, environment and chemicals and is the national measurement laboratory for chemical and biochemical analysis. LGC's services are designed to help organisations produce high quality data on which to base scientific and commercial decisions. Reference materials supplied by our market-leading distribution business, LGC Promochem, underpin the quality of measurement in many industrial sectors including pharmaceuticals. LGC Promochem distributes reference standards and ATCC biomaterials throughout Europe and in India. Growing at over 15% per year and 30% owned by 3i for the past seven years, LGC is based in Teddington, Middlesex, with additional laboratory facilities in Runcorn, Cheshire, in Edinburgh, Scotland and in Luckenwalde, Germany. Further offices are located in the UK, as well as in France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden and India.

About IRMM

The Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) is one of the seven Institutes of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), a Directorate-General of the European Commission (EC). IRMM promotes a common European measurement system in support of EU policies. For over 40 years the IRMM has provided Europe with reference materials and measurements. IRMM has developed from a nuclear science oriented research centre to an innovative measurements institute that covers a wide range of measurement problems from food safety to environmental pollution health and nuclear safeguards. Today IRMM is one of the world's largest reference material producers, expert adviser in food safety and quality and bioanalysis, and a valued provider of reference measurement data. IRMM organises training in the fields of chemical metrology, certified reference materials, food safety and quality, and nuclear reference measurements. IRMM has six core areas of competence: reference materials, food analysis, bioanalysis, chemical reference measurements, radionuclide metrology, neutron physics. These competences are applied in a number of research areas ranging from protection of environment and health to nuclear safety. A common factor for all activities that IRMM undertakes is excellence in measurement sciences. (www.irmm.jrc.be)

About BAM

The Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) (www.bam.de/english), as a technical and scientific agency of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour in Germany, works to improve safety and reliability in chemical and materials technologies. BAM has been producing and distributing Certified Reference Materials (BAM CRMs) since 1912.

BAM CRMs serve five major user categories:

- Ferrous and non-ferrous metal industrial laboratories
- Environmental analysis and monitoring laboratories
- Users of porous materials
- Users of elastomeric materials
- Laboratories engaged in basic metrological research (eg BAM holds the national German standards of gas composition and pure elements).