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News & Events

28-02-2005 - **ERM® brand of certified reference materials - US debut at Pittcon 2005**

ERM® presents brand new certified reference materials at Booth 2561 for GMOs in maize, sulfur in diesel and aflatoxins in milk powder.

The ERM® brand of reference materials will be showcased for the first time outside Europe at Pittcon 2005, at the Orange County Convention Centre in Pittsburgh, USA from 28 February until 3 March 2005. A result of an international co-operation between LGC, the European Commission's Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) and the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM), ERM® will be exhibiting and providing information on brand new certified reference materials designed to support measurements for food and environmental legislation and consumer safety at Booth 2561.

Certified reference materials (CRMs) are widely recognised in various fields of analysis as being crucial for calibration, method development and method validation. Used for controlling the performance of laboratories and methods, they provide confidence in and comparability of analytical data. To fulfil this role they have to be of sufficient quality. The aim of the ERM® initiative is that there are mutually agreed and transparent technical ERM® guidelines in accordance with ISO Guides 34 and 35, with additional peer-review of the CRMs and audits of their long-term stability.

Dr John Marriott, Government Chemist and Director of Analytical Technology at LGC said: "CRMs with the ERM® trademark fulfil harmonised quality criteria based on modern international guidelines and contribute to the surveillance of the implementation of EU legislation. They are a major tool for improving the confidence in, and the mutual recognition of, test results and certificates in a global market. LGC, IRMM and BAM believe that our ERM® brand of reference materials will also help US and other non-European organisations comply with international as well as their own national legislation."

Production of the new ERM® CRMs has focused on three areas: GMOs in maize, sulfur in diesel and aflatoxins in milk powders. Two new sets of GMO CRMs have been certified to allow the quantification of the GA21 and MON810 maize content, important for the implementation of GM legislation and acceptance of these two maize varieties in the European Union. The three milk powders have been certified for their aflatoxin M1 content, thus protecting consumers from this potentially carcinogenic substance. These CRMs will be available to order from Booth 2561. The diesel CRM with an especially low sulfur content will be available shortly, allowing fuel producers to ensure compliance with stringent environmental legislation. Information on the diesel material will also be available at the stand.

For further information about the ERM® brand of CRMs, visit the ERM® stand at Booth 2561 or visit <http://www.erm-crm.org>.

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About LGC

LGC 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 around 15% per year and majority-owned by Legal & General Ventures since April 2004, 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 France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden and India.

Information contained in our news releases should be considered accurate only as of the date of the release. The contents may be superseded by more recent information we have disclosed in later news releases, postings on the website or otherwise. News releases may also contain forward-looking statements based on the expectations of our management as of the date of the release.

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