

Press release

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vermicon AG: International study confirms ScanVIT-Legionella to be superior to conventional methods

Rapid and specific detection of Legionella

29 November 2010: According to recent studies of various well-known international institutes vermicon's rapid test ScanVIT-Legionella, which detects and quantifies Legionella, is a more efficient alternative compared to the cultivation depending standard method ISO 11731. Most notably, the test's specificity, reliability and rapidity surpassed the conventional standards. Legionella bacteria, often multiplying in closed water cycles unnoticeably, have been brought to the public's attention by recent cases of illness. The bacteria causes the often lethal Legionnaire's disease, a kind of pneumonia. Current estimates give an infection rate of 10.000 people each year in Germany resulting in 1.500 deaths.

The study (published in "Letters in Applied Microbiology 51 (2010)") compares vermicon's rapid detection technology to the currently applied standard method of cultivation. Its results are distinct and in favour of ScanVIT-Legionella as the convincing detection and quantification method of choice for Legionella bacteria. ScanVIT-Legionella detects both genera Legionella and Legionella pneumophila in one single analysis. In addition, absolute quantification of the Legionella bacteria contained in one sample is provided. Its application saves 7 days minimum versus standard methods. Moreover, the test's robustness to external influences making its results above average reliable has been valued highly.

"This study shows impressively how ScanVIT-Legionella is the most efficient system for the detection of Legionella currently available" concludes Dr. Jiri Snaidr, CEO of vermicon AG. "Death rates could be minimized by the application of our method."

ScanVIT-Legionella is based upon the innovative VIT® gene probe technology which is provided to companies and laboratories as standardised basic product.

Ask for further information concerning the study, ScanVIT®-Technology and all products directly at vermicon AG.

2069 letters (including spaces) /released at 11/29/ 2010 / free publication/ voucher copy requested

vermicon AG is the specialist for microbiological questions in industry. By offering especially developed and patented technologies as well as a wide range of conventional methods vermicon is always prepared to fully comply with the clients's particular needs. Additional to the wide range of services and the broad consulting portfolio vermicon also offers test kits for microorganisms. Since 2001, the patented VIT® gene probe technology is also available as convenient standardised and industrialised VIT rapid detection kits.