

NEWS RELEASE:

Johnson Wax Professional Becomes Global Leader in Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide Technology

STURTEVANT, WI (June 13, 2001) - Taking a giant step in leading the war against pathogens, Johnson Wax Professional has acquired the exclusive rights in the I & I market to the Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide (AHP) technology. Additionally, it intends to purchase a minority stake in the Canadian company that invented it, Virox Technologies Inc., developing a relationship that will eventually bring the use of AHP across the globe.

AHP, which first appeared on the Canadian market just over two years ago, has many benefits, including being free from volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and it's non-toxic and non-corrosive at use dilutions.

Rob Kohlhagen, a global marketing director for Johnson Wax Professional, said, "The innovative AHP technology will enhance our capabilities satisfying a wide range of infection control needs with disinfectants and cleaners that are safe to use and environmentally superior to what is available today."

He said Johnson Wax Professional will collaborate with Virox, headquartered in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, to develop products that utilize the innovative AHP technology. These may include disinfectants, sanitizers, sterilants, hand care, carpet care, floor cleaners and more and could involve application in a diverse vertical market group, including healthcare, food processing, long term care and hospitality, among others.

"As Virox's global partner, we will work closely with them to leverage their skills and experience in developing new applications," Kohlhagen said. "They are a very innovative company that will help us bring AHP-based solutions to multiple markets very quickly."

Virox President and CEO, Randy Pilon, said, "Johnson's capabilities in R & D, marketing, production and sales will enable AHP to become a formidable force in the marketplace and establish AHP as a standard cleaning and disinfecting technology." Pilon added that products containing this leading edge technology developed by Virox will carry the Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide trademark and logo on the label.

AHP is registered for sale as a disinfectant only in Canada, but the work toward global applications already is underway.

Hydrogen peroxide is one of the world's oldest known antibacterial substances but never has been widely used in disinfecting because of its slow activity and inability to remain stable in highly complex formulations. Three years ago, Virox invented the formulas to stabilize and accelerate hydrogen peroxide.

Virox AHP has been evaluated by some of the leading experts in the world who specialize in chemical germicides, including Dr. Syed Sattar of the Centre for Research on Environmental Microbiology (CREM) of the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Sattar said, "Chemical germicides play a crucial role in infection control. Their importance in this regard is increasing even further as more and more bacteria develop resistance to antibiotics. The challenge for the industry has been to develop formulations, which are safe for humans and the environment and effective in killing disease-causing agents. We are delighted that the long-standing collaboration between Virox and CREM has contributed to this technology."

Virox, Canada's leading manufacturer and supplier of hydrogen peroxide based cleaners and disinfectants, received approval in 1999 from Health Canada (TTP) and the Pest Control Products Act (PCP) to market a new generation of patent-pending AHP disinfectants. The company currently

sells AHP through Johnson Wax Professional's subsidiary company, Butcher's in Canada, the only market in which Virox sells today. The company has two main product lines, Hydrox, with Stabilized Hydrogen Peroxide™, and Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide.

Johnson Wax Professional is one of the world's leading providers of hygiene and appearance solutions through floor care, food sanitation, housekeeping and pest control products and services to retail, healthcare, building service contractors and food services and lodging customers. Headquartered in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, USA, Johnson Wax Professional serves customers in more than 50 countries.