

NEWS RELEASE:

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JohnsonDiversey Increases its Stake in Virox Technologies

RACINE, WI (December 20th, 2002) JohnsonDiversey announced today that it has increased to 10 percent its ownership interest in Virox Technologies. The increased ownership reflects a further strengthening of the partnership in support of the intent by JohnsonDiversey to sell worldwide applications of the accelerated hydrogen peroxide (AHP) technology developed by Virox.

AHP, an innovative disinfectant formulation developed by Virox, has potential applications in several diverse markets, including healthcare, aquaculture, medical device reprocessing, food processing, long-term care and hospitality, to name a few. AHP offers advantages over current disinfectant technologies, including rapid germicidal activity and superior cleaning performance.

"Our investment in Virox aligns with our strategic vision to provide our customers with the best solutions and service every day, everywhere," says JohnsonDiversey President and Chief Executive Officer Greg Lawton. "AHP represents the state of the art in disinfectants and will provide our customers with the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their facilities and products are clean, healthy and safe."

Virox Technologies has received patents for AHP in the United States and Canada, and has received approval for the technology from Spain, France, Japan, Britain, Germany and Italy.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has sanctioned AHP as an effective decontaminant option for anthrax incidents. Similarly, Health Canada has approved the use of AHP as an alternative for the decontamination of surfaces in outbreaks of the Norwalk virus, a non-enveloped virus that has a high resistance to chemical germicides.

"We are very excited about the opportunities enabled by our strategic partnership with JohnsonDiversey," says Randy Pilon, president and chief executive officer of Virox. "JohnsonDiversey has the size, strength and geographic reach to compete anywhere in the world with anyone in their industry. As a result, we're confident that AHP will soon become the global standard by which all other disinfectants will be measured."

Virox Technologies, based in Mississauga, Ontario, is Canada's leading manufacturer and supplier of hydrogen peroxide-based cleaners and disinfectants. The company has supply agreements with tier-one partners in many vertical markets, including JohnsonDiversey. Virox has a GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) and ISO9002-registered production facility in Mississauga, as well as on site research and development capabilities.

JohnsonDiversey is a world leader in the institutional and industrial (I&I) market, providing cleaning and hygiene solutions to a broad array of industries, including the retail, hospitality, food service, food processing, healthcare and building service industries. With global headquarters in Racine, Wisconsin, JohnsonDiversey employs more than 14,000 people worldwide. The 116-year-old company has operations in more than 60 countries and distributes its products in more than 100 countries.