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PRESS RELEASE

IDE Inc. Designs Enclosure for New Diagnostic Instrument

SCOTTS VALLEY, CA (July 17, 2008) — IDE Inc. of Scotts Valley, CA, is pleased to announce the recent introduction of a new *in vitro* diagnostic product, the PREVI™ Color Gram Stainer from France’s biomedical giant, bioMérieux. IDE provided the industrial design for the product enclosure as well as some mechanical engineering for the unit. The PREVI Color Gram stainer was unveiled at the 108th General Meeting of the American Society of Microbiology (ASM) held June 1 through 5, 2008 in Boston, MA, as part of bioMérieux’s new suite of “Full Microbiology Laboratory Automations” solutions.

One Client Leads to Another

IDE’s longtime client, Wescor, partnered with bioMérieux to sell Wescor’s state-of-the-art diagnostic tool under the bioMérieux brand. Both companies wanted a new industrial design to differentiate the new bioMérieux brand from the Wescor brand. Naturally, Wescor turned to IDE, who had designed five previous products for them.

While Wescor and bioMérieux retained responsibility for the internal workings of the new Gram stainer, IDE was charged with the industrial design, including the look and feel of the case and the controls of the new unit. The PREVI Color Gram would require an all new exterior enclosure, new reagent bottle tray, new keypad-display design and new bottle pump keypad design.

Constraints, Challenges and Solutions

A major constraint for IDE was that the new enclosure components had to be assembled on the existing chassis of the Wescor product, since the two brands would be manufactured and sold concurrently.

A major challenge for the IDE design team was to create a new design that would provide brand differentiation for the new bioMeriuex product. This was achieved by implementing a more formal minimalist approach to the enclosure design. The overall form was reduced to pure geometric shapes, while gracious fillet radii provided a softened appearance. The use of the smooth surfaces and flush membrane keypads allowed for easy cleaning of the unit, an important feature for all laboratory instrumentation. The use of color-coded buttons, concise graphics and a high-contrast LCD created an easy-to-comprehend user interface.

Another challenge was to design the front enclosure panel (with keypad and display interface) and left and right side enclosure panels in such a way that would allow any of the three to be removed and installed without disturbing the other two. The IDE design team solved this problem with an innovative spring

design that secured the nose of the front panel and side panels so that either could be removed without loosening the other.

To expedite the design and feedback process, IDE used real-time video web meetings between Wescor, their preferred plastics supplier and IDE. This allowed them to concurrently agree upon design details without the usual lag time between forwarded drawing and emails

Once the entire 3D design was complete, IDE forwarded electronic files to the plastic manufacturer in San Diego, CA and to the Wescor development team in Logan, Utah. IDE then provided Wescor with a complete set of rapid prototypes that were virtually indistinguishable from production quality parts. The prototype enclosures were sent to Wescor, who assembled them onto a working scanner and then on to bioMérieux for the product introduction at the AMS General Meeting.

About bioMérieux

A world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics for 45 years, bioMérieux, headquartered in Marcy l'Etoile, France, is present in more than 150 countries through 37 subsidiaries and a large network of distributors; 83% of their sales come from outside of France. bioMérieux provides diagnostic solutions (reagents, instruments, software) which determine the source of disease and contamination to improve patient health and ensure consumer safety. bioMérieux is listed on Euronext Paris. More information can be found at www.biomerieux.com.

About Wescor

Wescor has been designing and manufacturing medical laboratory equipment for sample preparation and diagnostic measurement since 1970, and is the world leader in sweat testing equipment for the laboratory diagnosis of cystic fibrosis. Wescor's automated slide stainers and cytocentrifuges enjoy an excellent reputation throughout the world. Wescor is part of the privately held ELITech group. Information about Wescor's products can be found at www.wescor.com.

About IDE Inc.

IDE Inc. is a Scotts Valley, California product design firm providing multi-disciplined product design services to technology-based companies throughout the world. IDE clientele include many of the world's most successful and innovative companies. Visit IDE's web site at www.ideinc.com.

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