

Specific Technologies Announces the Introduction of the Spec80 Blood Culture System Combining Detection and ID at ECCMID 2016

MOUNTAIN VIEW, California, March 25, 2016 -- Specific Technologies, which has developed a new technology combining detection with ID of microorganisms growing in culture, will introduce its first instrument, the Spec80™, in Amsterdam at ECCMID 2016. This 80-bottle benchtop blood culture system will be released on an RUO basis, with clinical trials, CE mark registration and initial FDA clearance expected in 2017, subject to the review and satisfaction of the regulatory bodies.

The Spec80 will offer more rapid detection than legacy CO₂-based detection methods, Gram status more accurate than the benchtop stain, and highly accurate species ID for both bacteria and yeast, all completely hands free during culture. This new paradigm for the detection and characterization of blood infection will streamline laboratory work flow while dramatically speeding the 24/7 fully automated delivery of information vital to patient care. Not only will laboratory labor costs decline, but wait times for the availability of skilled technicians to perform Gram stains or to conduct sample preparation for ID will disappear. The 80-bottle system fits comfortably on the bench, or can be connected with up to 8 units controlled by one touch-screen control panel. Four-color indicator lights at each bay indicate completion of detection, Gram status and species ID determinations, indicating sample readiness for hand-off to either molecular resistance assay and/or phenotypic susceptibility testing.

“In the two years since we published the results of the first pilot study announcing the ability to combine detection and ID in blood culture, we have had relentless interest in instruments for both clinical and research use,” said Specific CEO Paul Rhodes. “We are now responding with the Spec80, and will take reservations at ECCMID and ASM 2016. We intend to limit the number of laboratory placements so we can provide complete comprehensive support for these customers, and ensure that the first laboratories that use our instrument to combine detection and ID will be in position to forthrightly and enthusiastically report a uniformly successful experience to their colleagues across the professional societies.”

About the SpecID System

During growth in culture, bacteria produce small molecule volatile metabolites unique to their species and strain. Utilizing an inexpensive printed chemical sensor array to obtain a fingerprint that combines detection and identification into a simple, automated single step, the novel SpecID system identifies microorganism species and strain from a phenotypic metabolomic signature obtained during growth. The fully automated system will streamline lab work flow, reduce costs, and substantially shorten the time from sample arrival to Gram status and species ID determination, lowering costs while improving patient care by speeding sample-to-answer in blood culture and other clinically important samples.

About Specific Technologies

Specific Technologies has developed *in vitro* diagnostic systems for rapid identification of cells at the strain level, and is applying this fundamental new platform to the detection and characterization of microorganisms during culture. The company's unique, patented metabolomic signature technology leverages a low-cost printed chemical colorimetric sensor array to identify cell type down to the strain level. Specific Technologies is located in Mountain View, CA.

For additional information, please visit www.specificttechnologies.net.

Press Release – For Distribution

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