



Bioforum



Newsletter of The Biopharma Group

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Consultancy and R&D up 50% in 2003!

BTL has seen a 50% increase in its consultancy, contract research & development and production services during 2003, compared to 2002. The demand for pharmaceutical formulation development and analysis has grown substantially, as has the need for pilot-scale production batches of materials in the diagnostics and biologicals sectors.

To cope with its increased workload and its internal research projects planned for 2004, BTL will be undergoing a programme of expansion in the New Year. Part of this expansion will involve changes to our laboratory area, in order to accommodate a new 25-litre pilot scale freeze-dryer and the need for increased bench space.

Spreading the word about the Science of freeze-drying!

BTL is delighted to have had the opportunity to give so many presentations on some of the company's research work and new technologies at a number of conferences and seminars throughout 2003, both in the UK and internationally. Some of the meetings attended include:

- ◆ Society for Low Temperature Biology annual meeting (Potters Bar, UK)
- ◆ International Society of Lyophilization – Freeze-Drying (ISL-FD) annual conference (Chicago, USA)
- ◆ British Pharmaceutical Conference (Harrogate, UK)
- ◆ Parenteral Society "Advances in Freeze-Drying" seminar (Manchester, UK)
- ◆ American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) conference (Salt Lake City, USA)
- ◆ TAC 2003 Conference on thermal analysis (Huddersfield, UK)
- ◆ Protein Stability Conference (Colorado, USA)
- ◆ Barnett International Forum on Lyophilization (Brussels, Belgium)

Continued international interest in Lyostat 2... and a 2-year warranty!

Recent sales of BTL's *Lyostat 2* freeze-drying microscope have included more models being supplied to customer sites outside our home market, including mainland Europe and Scandinavia.



Sales into northern Europe have led to an interest in a longer warranty, with a 24-month warranty now becoming standard in some EU countries, in addition to the mandatory CE-marking. In response to this, we now offer a 2nd year's warranty on *Lyostat 2* for a small additional cost, giving peace of mind for twice as long!

OFFICE HOURS

Please note our office hours are now

8.30am to 5.00 pm Monday to Thursdays 8.30am to 2.30pm on Fridays

Course Success (again...and again!)

Our recent courses in San Francisco (USA) and Winchester (UK) were both very well attended. This means that with our 4 'open' courses and the tailor-made courses that we provide at customer sites, we have provided training for over 120 people in freeze-drying technology during 2003. Based on the success of these courses, we are now planning to hold 4 every year with a regular pattern – February (mainland Europe), March (central / eastern USA), October (USA west coast) and November (Winchester, UK). Correspondingly, our next courses are in Amsterdam (NL) in February 2004 and New Jersey (USA) in March 2004. Further course details are available on our website.

www.lyophilizationtechnology.com



Amsterdam, Netherlands. 9th – 11th February 2004

This is a 3-Day Comprehensive Course.

For further details or to book your place, please contact us at:

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Lyotherm 2 cometh – Watch This Space!

BTL is putting the final touches to its new generation of thermal analyser, *Lyotherm 2*. Developed in collaboration with the world-renowned freeze-drying specialist, Professor Louis Rey, *Lyotherm 2* is based on BTL's original *Lyotherm* system in that it provides a simple but effective means of carrying out differential thermal analysis (DTA), giving essential information about the frozen-state characteristics of a formulation that can affect its freeze-drying behaviour.



While the original *Lyotherm* also incorporated a freezing resistance analyser (FRA), the new *Lyotherm 2* measures a function of impedance in a frozen formulation at a higher frequency, which has been shown to be more specifically related to changes in the non-ice phase of a formulation than by measuring its entire electrical resistance¹.

¹L. Rey (1999) Glimpses into the realm of freeze-drying, In: L. Rey and J.C. May (Eds.) *Freeze-Drying / Lyophilization of Pharmaceutical and Biological Products*, Marcel Dekker (New York & Basel), pp. 1-30