

NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Date: 25.02.10****Image Attached****-Copy Starts-****New Application of ProtoCOL 2 Colony Counting Technology
Helps Speed up Detection of *Legionella* in Contaminated Water Supplies**

Cambridge, UK: Synbiosis, a world-leading manufacturer of automated microbiological systems, is pleased to announce that its innovative ProtoCOL 2 automated colony counter has been extensively tested to enable rapid, accurate counts of *Legionella* on any *Legionella* detection media.

The Synbiosis technical team found that by using the ProtoCOL 2 system, 600 *Legionella* plates could be accurately processed per hour, which is approximately 30 fold more than can be achieved using time consuming, error-prone manual techniques. The team used ProtoCOL 2's ground-breaking red, blue and green LED lighting (patent pending) with the dark screens shut to allow excellent reflection-free imaging of shiny buffered charcoal yeast extract media and *Legionella* colonies.

The team tested the ProtoCOL 2's method of capturing three different coloured images and automatically combining them to generate life-like full colour images. They established that this method ensured easy identification and counts of the *Legionella* colonies from background flora on *Legionella* growth media.

Martin Smith of Synbiosis commented: "Microbial contamination with *Legionella*, which can cause a potentially fatal form of pneumonia, is ubiquitous in both man-made and natural water sources, and remains an increasing concern. The water industry is continually tightening its regulations worldwide and this has led to a significant increase in the screening and identification of *Legionella* bacteria in drinking, environmental and recreational water supplies."

Smith continued: "Plates of water samples tend to vary widely from low to very high counts. Automating the counting process and recording the results consistently is critical. Testing the ProtoCOL 2, we have proved the system delivers this, ensuring accurate quantification of *Legionella* in water samples, thus offering microbiologists an excellent method of rapidly checking the safety of water supplies and equipment."

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Note to Editors**About Synbiosis**

Synbiosis is a world-leading supplier of integrated imaging solutions for automatic counting and analysis of microbial colonies and zone measurement. The ProtoCOL 2 and aCOLyte systems from Synbiosis are installed in food, pharmaceutical, environmental and research microbiology laboratories world-wide. Synbiosis uses established distribution channels to market its products internationally.

Synbiosis, founded in 1998 is a division of the Synoptics Group based in Cambridge UK. The Group's other divisions, Syncroscopy and Syngene, specialise in digital imaging solutions for microscopy and molecular biology applications respectively. Synoptics currently employs 40 people in its UK and US subsidiary operation.