

**NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Date:** 04.09.06**Photograph Attached****-Copy Starts-****Synoptics Develops New Instrument for IDEXX Laboratories  
To Make Performing Total Viable Counts with Quanti-Disc™ Quicker and Easier**

**Cambridge, UK:** Synoptics, a world leader in the development and manufacture of innovative digital imaging systems for life science applications, is pleased to announce it has developed the Quanti-Disc™ reader, a new automated fluorescence plate reading system, designed to help rapidly assess water quality, for major microbiological testing company, IDEXX Laboratories.

Synoptics has built on its expertise of developing industry leading Synbiosis automated colony counters to produce the Quanti-Disc reader, which will be marketed exclusively by IDEXX Laboratories. The reader automatically detects and reads fluorescence from the 50 wells of a Quanti-Disc in less than 10 seconds, making performing total viable counts with Quanti-Disc even quicker and simpler than traditional agar plating methods.

Adam Potter, Associate Product Manager at IDEXX Laboratories stated: "Since we launched Quanti-Disc last year, customers have said they would like to automate reading the fluorescence in each well. Synoptics is known as a leader in the industry with the Synbiosis colony counters, which is why we approached Synoptics to be our partner in this exciting project."

"The Quanti-Disc Reader can accurately and objectively read 100 Quanti-Disc plates in just 15 minutes. This is less than half the time it takes most microbiologists to read the plates manually, and will be an excellent time saving addition for Quanti-Disc users," Potter continued.

Phil Atkin, Managing Director of Synoptics said: "At Synoptics we have over 20 years' experience in producing high quality imaging solutions. We were delighted when we were approached because we enjoy the challenge of developing innovative life science imagers around the specific requirements of industry-leading customers such as IDEXX Laboratories. The resulting Quanti-Disc reader is a system we are very proud of and will, we believe, improve the utility of what was already an innovative, time saving product."

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# News Release

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**Note to Editors****About Synoptics**

Synoptics, based in Cambridge, UK is a world-leader in the development and manufacture of innovative digital imaging systems for a range of scientific applications. The Company has three divisions, Syngene, Synbiosis and Syncroscopy of which Syngene is the largest.

Syngene produces advanced systems for molecular biologists to analyse and document information from gels. The other divisions of Synoptics, Syncroscopy and Synbiosis, specialise in digital imaging solutions for microscopy and microbial applications respectively. The Company founded in 1985 currently employs 50 people in its UK and subsidiary operation in Frederick, USA.

**About IDEXX Laboratories**

IDEXX Laboratories is a world-wide leader in the development and commercialisation of innovative, technology-based products and services for veterinary, food and water applications. The Company's largest business is focused on companion animal health, combining biotechnology, medical device technology and information technology to aid veterinarians in providing better medicine while building successful practices. IDEXX Laboratories' food and water businesses are focused on employing innovative technologies to monitor animal health and the safety and quality of drinking water and milk. Headquartered in Westbrook, Maine, IDEXX Laboratories employs more than 3,000 people and offers products to customers in over 100 countries.