

NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Date: 15.09.15****Image Attached****-Copy Starts-*****mASter software speeds up diagnosis of superbug antibiotic resistance by automatically measuring inhibition zones on AST plates and producing SIR profiles***

Cambridge, UK: Synbiosis, a long-established, expert manufacturer of automated microbiological systems, today introduced its mASter (measuring Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing easily and rapidly) software. This revolutionary software saves microbiologists hours of work by reproducibly measuring zones around antibiotic discs on AST (Antibiotic Sensitivity Testing) plates and then automatically producing a bacteria's antibiotic SIR (Susceptible, Intermediate, Resistant) category.

The versatile mASter software can be used to analyse AST plate images generated by a Synbiosis ProtoCOL 3 automated zone measurement system or from a Syngene G:BOX image analyser. Using a ProtoCOL 3 system with the new mASter software allows scientists to work in a high throughput batch mode to accurately measure zones around antibiotic sensitivity discs. With the G:BOX, microbiologists simply generate monochrome TIFF or JPEG images of their AST plates and import them into the mASter software for analysis.

The mASter software will at the touch of a button, automatically measure inhibition zones on the true to life images and compare the results to data from all the tested microbes that have breakpoint values in the EUCAST database. The software then lists the SIR category and suggests which antibiotics the bacteria are sensitive to, providing guidance for treatment options, in a fraction of the time it would normally take to perform these tasks manually.

The new mASter software is GLP compliant, providing zone measurements and plate images which can be transferred and stored in Excel. This eliminates measuring, keying and data transfer errors, producing fully traceable results, which are consistent from microbiologist to microbiologist. These archived results are suitable for generating reports for audit by regulatory authorities and can also be used by scientists to monitor and measure superbug resistance trends over time.

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Microbiologists wanting to find out about the systems for use with mASTER software, can click: <http://synbiosis.com/protocol-3> <http://www.syngene.com/q-box-chemi-xrq/>

“Manually measuring antibiotic inhibition zones with callipers or a ruler and recording results are repetitive, error prone activities, which produces subjective data that varies depending on which scientist is doing it,” explains Kate George, Divisional Manager at Synbiosis, “our new mASTER software provides an excellent solution to these problems by rapidly automating this process and analysis. Microbiologists wanting to speed up diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of antibiotic resistant superbugs should trial the mASTER software in their lab.”

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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 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 of the AIM quoted Scientific Digital Imaging Company 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, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary of being in business in 2015, currently employs 40 people in its UK and subsidiary operation in Frederick, USA.