

**NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: 19.02.09**

**Image Attached**

**-Copy Starts-**

**New OPKA Assay Application Features for ProtoCOL  
Ensure Speedy Analysis of Pneumococcal Vaccines**

**Cambridge, UK:** Synbiosis, a world-leading manufacturer of automated microbiological systems, is pleased to announce its ProtoCOL automated colony counter offers new features to guarantee the fastest, most accurate testing of pneumococcal vaccines using an OPKA assay.

The ProtoCOL system now has a high resolution CCD camera that can detect white or red coloured *S.pneumoniae* colonies (down to 0.08 mm in size) produced post-OPKA assay, making this the most accurate commercially available colony counter. The system's software has been upgraded to include a new colony separation tool, which microbiologists can apply to OPKA assay plates to separate touching colonies. This combination ensures microbiologists can achieve accurate counting results in seconds, even when analysing large numbers of small colonies clustered together.

The system's new software allows users to save their plate template settings and their results can be automatically transferred into Excel where a vaccine's name can be recorded. These additions to the software reduce set-up time for future batches and also eliminate variations that can occur when different users perform manual colony counts. An image library is also created alongside the database, making it easy to permit regulatory inspectors to see an accurate colour picture of the original OPKA assay plate months or years after its disposal. The ProtoCOL software is GLP compliant and is easily integrated into a CF21 part 11 environment, which means the ProtoCOL can be used in a vaccine research or manufacturing setting.

Martin Smith of Synbiosis commented: "OPKA assays often generate closely clustered *S.pneumoniae* colonies that are smaller than a pin head and are

/more...

BEACON HOUSE  
NUFFIELD ROAD  
CAMBRIDGE  
CB4 1TF

TEL: +44 (0)1223 727125

FAX: +44 (0)1223 727101

e-mail: [info@synbiosis.com](mailto:info@synbiosis.com)

[www.synbiosis.com](http://www.synbiosis.com)

**News Release**

***New OPKA Assay Application Features for ProtoCOL press release continued.....***

extremely difficult to count manually. We are delighted to have used our imaging expertise to design features in an unrivalled version of our ProtoCOL to solve this problem. This system will significantly increase productivity, without increasing staff costs, making the ProtoCOL colony counter an essential part of any biotech or pharma company's pneumococcal vaccine testing programmes."

**-Ends-**

**For Further Information Contact:**

Jayne Arthur, Synbiosis, Beacon House, Nuffield Road, Cambridge, CB4 1TF, UK.  
Tel: +44(0) 1223-727125 Fax +44 (0) 1223-727101  
Email: jayne.arthur@synbiosis.com Web site: www.synbiosis.com

**Editor Contact:**

Dr Sue Pearson, PO Box 170, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 3GD, UK.  
Tel/Fax +44 (0)1462-635327 Email: sue6.pearson@ntlworld.com

**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 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.

BEACON HOUSE  
NUFFIELD ROAD  
CAMBRIDGE  
CB4 1TF

TEL: +44 (0)1223 727125

FAX: +44 (0)1223 727101

e-mail: [info@synbiosis.com](mailto:info@synbiosis.com)

[www.synbiosis.com](http://www.synbiosis.com)

# News Release