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NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW Independent Validation Study of ProtoCOL 3 System

Shows System's Rapid Performance is as Accurate as Manual Colony Counting

Cambridge, UK: Synbiosis, a world-leading manufacturer of automated micro-biological systems, is delighted to announce its ProtoCOL 3 rapid automated colony counter has been shown in an independent study to perform with the same level of accuracy as manual colony counting for enumerating 10 different types of microbial colonies on a range of agar plates.

The study, which was performed to GLP-compliant standards at Don Whitley Scientific Contract Microbiology Laboratory, compared the ProtoCOL 3 system with manual counting for enumeration of bacterial, yeast and fungal colonies on either Plate Count Agar, Columbia Blood Agar or Sabouraud Dextrose Agar plates. These plates were surface spread or spiral plated with one of the following organisms: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Kocuria rhizophila*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus brasiliensis.* The resulting colonies were then enumerated both manually and using the ProtoCOL 3's powerful software to produce a count.

For each plate type (spiral and spread) the comparison between ProtoCOL 3 and manual counts were analysed statistically using a t-test. The results ($p = 0.105$ for spiral plate data and $p = 0.143$ for spread plate data) did not identify significant differences between manual and the automated counting methods, for either plate type, at the 95% confidence level.

Martin Smith at Synbiosis commented: "The microorganisms in this independent study produce colonies of differing colours, shapes and sizes and were also cultured on both translucent and opaque agars, which means some are a real challenge to count automatically. We're delighted with the results of this study because they show that there is no significant difference between the accuracy of manual and automated counting with the ProtoCOL 3 in what are realistic evaluation situations you'd see in many microbiology laboratories."

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Martin continued: “Being able to accurately enumerate so many types of colonies on different agars is a task very few automated colony counters can perform well and this study validates the ProtoCOL 3’s versatility for this application. Microbiologists looking to increase their throughput of plate counts can now install a ProtoCOL 3, confident that they will automatically count many different types of bacteria, fungi and yeast in a fraction of the time, while still guaranteeing the accuracy they demand from a manual count.”

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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 åCOLyte 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.

About Don Whitley Scientific Contract Microbiology Laboratories

Don Whitley Scientific contract microbiology laboratories have been offering contract research and analytical services since 1991 and have been GLP compliant since 1994. The laboratories can accommodate the whole spectrum of microbiology testing from routine analysis / quality control to substantial research and development programmes for major multinational clients.

In addition to GLP compliance, Don Whitley Scientific contract microbiology laboratories comply with national and international standards as required, including BS / EN / ISO / ASTM test methods, BSAC, EUCAST and CLSI guidelines.
http://www.dwscientific.co.uk/contract-laboratory/