

**NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Date: 26.04.12****Image Attached****-Copy Starts-****Top Pie Maker Picks aCOLade as their 'Pukka' Manual Colony Counter  
As Choice of Backgrounds Reduces Glare,  
Making Plate Counts Quick and Easy**

**Cambridge, UK:** Synbiosis, a world-leading manufacturer of automated microbiological systems, today announced its aCOLade, affordable, manual colony counter is being used at major UK food manufacturer, Pukka Pies, to ensure that their pies are top quality and free from microbial contaminants.

The easy to use aCOLade colony counter is being used in the Onsite Microbiology Testing Laboratory at Pukka Pies to accurately count mixed colonies on TVC (Total Viable Count) plates, as well as bacterial colonies including coliforms, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Enterobacter* spp. and *Clostridium perfringens* on a range of different media. Scientists at Pukka Pies are able to perform so many different counts using the aCOLade because this versatile system has interchangeable backgrounds, as well as an adjustable plate ring, making it suitable for counting shiny colonies and colonies on different plate sizes.

Val Burton, Laboratory Supervisor at Pukka Pies said: "Our previous colony counter was white light based, which gave us a reflection problem, especially when we were counting white colonies on TVC media. We saw the aCOLade advertised as being anti-glare because it offers two different backgrounds and decided to give this counter a try in our lab."

Val continued: "We have been using the aCOLade for almost a year to count around 50 plates every day. The aCOLade is brilliant. The system is reliable, sensitive and has a nice viewing magnifying glass so suits our needs perfectly. We'd definitely re-order another aCOLade for colony counting."

Martin Smith of Synbiosis commented: "We're delighted that a pie manufacturer with such a good reputation for quality is using our technology to accurately ensure their products are in tip top condition. Their use of the aCOLade shows

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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

food microbiologists looking for a simple to use, inexpensive manual colony counter, which is versatile enough to use with a variety of different plate and colony types that aCOLade is a 'pukka' choice."

**-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/acolade/](http://www.synbiosis.com/acolade/)

Val Burton, Laboratory Supervisor, Onsite Microbiology Testing Laboratory, Pukka Pies Limited, The Halfcroft, Syston, Leicester, LE7 1LD, UK.

Tel: +44 (0)116 264 4031 Fax: +44 (0)116 264 0092

Email: [lab@pukkapies.co.uk](mailto:lab@pukkapies.co.uk) Web: [www.pukkapies.co.uk](http://www.pukkapies.co.uk)

**Editor Contact:**

Dr Sue Pearson, Director, International Science Writer, PO Box 170, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 3GD, UK.

Tel/Fax +44 (0)1462-635327 Email: [sue.pearson@internationalsciencewriter.com](mailto:sue.pearson@internationalsciencewriter.com)

Web site: [www.internationalsciencewriter.com](http://www.internationalsciencewriter.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.

**About Pukka Pies**

Pukka Pies is an independent pie making company based in Leicester, UK. Their pies are made by dedicated and caring people with the finest ingredients and are free from preservatives and hydrogenated fats.

Pukka Pies was set up in 1963 and has sold more pies every year since then. Today the company makes over 60 million pies every year and employs 280 members of staff.