

Plasmatreat announces disinfection patent

January 25, 2007 Steinhagen, Germany

Plasmatreat GmbH announced today it has registered a patent on application of its patented Openair® atmospheric plasma technology as a means of disinfecting surfaces.

According to Mr. Christian Buske, Managing Director of Plasmatreat GmbH, this is the result of a successful partnership with Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging IVV in Freising, Germany, an internationally recognized research institute. "We recognized our plasma contained a significant concentration of atomic oxygen, and the work by Fraunhofer was instrumental in demonstrating its efficacy in inactivating a range of microorganisms on surfaces."

The new process involves exposure of surfaces to a plasma formed by electrical excitation of air and kills [*or inactivates*] microorganisms, such as bacteria spores and mold spores.

"We believe our process will offer customers who package medical devices and food products significant advantages over other processes for elimination of microorganisms for aseptic or sterile packaging. The only required feedstock is compressed air, which is virtually free, readily available and safe to handle. The plasma can be applied in line with other processes, which enhances productivity. Workers are not exposed to noxious chemicals or radiation. Because plasma works on the surface, it does not compromise the bulk properties of the material. So we believe we have a safer alternative that also is environmentally friendly.

"While the patent is registered, we do not yet have the ability to make claims about disinfection until we have completed submissions to the Food & Drug Administration in the United States.", says Mr. Buske.

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ABOUT PLASMATREAT

Plasmatreat is the leading supplier of atmospheric pressure plasma surface treatment technology to improve adhesion of paints, coatings, inks and adhesives –especially on hard-to-bond materials. The company is based in Steinhagen, Germany and has an installed system base of over 1500 systems worldwide, representing over 5,000 plasma jets. Plasmatreat has sales offices in North America and in the Pacific Rim.

ABOUT FRAUNHOFER IVV

Based in Freising, Germany, The Fraunhofer IVV is one of more than 50 institutes of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Europe's leading organization for technical innovations. It carries out contract research and development work for industry among others. Its activities focus on food technology, packaging and recycling. The activities are partly supported by publicly-funded exploratory applied research projects as well as by the participation in scientific, standardization and industrial bodies. In addition to the research work, the Fraunhofer IVV provides a range of services - also for small and medium-sized companies.

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