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Process Instruments

Media Contact Information:

Name: Emma Hulse – ELH Communications

Phone: +44 (0)1628 665593

Email: emmahulse@copperstream.co.uk

Website: www.thermo.com/powerx

Secondary Contact Information:

Andrew Baker

+44 (0)1788 820300

andrew.baker@thermofisher.com

Thermo Fisher Scientific Installs First Ever POWERx™ X-ray Inspection System

Spanish manufacturer of premium fruit preserves chooses high performance POWERx S to ensure highest levels of product quality

MADRID, Spain, (November 28, 2007) – Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., the world leader in serving science, is celebrating the first-ever sale of its recently launched Thermo Scientific POWERx X-ray inspection system. The state-of-the-art ‘S’ model, which features a single beam, has been installed at premium fruit preserve manufacturer Alcornia S.A. located in Murcia, Spain where it is inspecting jam packaged in glass jars with metallic lids. In addition, the company is considering a second machine for handling metal cans and glass jars containing fruit in syrup.

Alcornia chose the cost effective Thermo Scientific POWERx S model due to advanced foreign body detection in upright containers including jars, cans, bottles and boxes - helping the company ensure the highest possible levels of product quality across all its brands. Also, Alcornia was particularly impressed with Thermo Fisher’s superior sales and service capabilities.

A key element of doing business in Spain is compliance with the regulations of the Nuclear Spanish Security Council (CSNE). Thermo Fisher Scientific’s Spanish team used its extensive technical and X-ray product knowledge to ensure that the POWERx S complied with the guidelines, which state that X-ray systems should not emit radiation greater than 1 microsievert per hour at 0.1 metres from anywhere on the machine cabinet and associated shielding.

The flexible and robust S unit generates a powerful single X-ray beam for packs without hidden inspection areas and is designed to find anything that might be a contaminant, including metal, glass, bone, stone, ceramic or any other high density or sharp material.

Joan Almirall Claret, sales area manager at Thermo Fisher Scientific, comments: “We are thrilled that Alcornia has chosen the S model and very proud that it represents the first ever POWERx installation. We worked closely with the customer to deliver the right solution for its requirements, as well as ensuring the S model complied with the regulations of the CSNE, without which it would have been impossible to proceed with the installation.”

The POWERx S unit incorporates an inspection tunnel through which a conveyor line can pass, facilitating easy integration into existing production lines. High-resolution detectors and sophisticated image analysis software achieve the highest sensitivity and lowest false reject rates possible. It is IP65 dust and washdown compliant, which meets cleanliness requirements in wet and dusty environments.

Cont.../2

Unique Virtual Contaminant Testing software is available to simulate various types, sizes and positions of contaminants to quickly determine how to achieve the best performance in each application.

Additional key features of the POWERx range include remote access hardware and software for support and service, which facilitates quick resolution of problems and minimizes downtime; easy to use, extendable detection and inspection software addressable through an icon-based HMI; X-ray-based mass measurement software enabling image-based checkweighing of uniform products in applications that do not require the weights and measures compliance of a checkweigher; and multilingual software and documentation to provide intuitive operation anywhere in the world.

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