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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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R.A.P.I.D. FACTS

R.A.P.I.D. System— Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Identification Device Idaho Technology's portable laboratory for identifying infectious organisms provides fast, accurate answers

- An executive for a large corporation opens his morning mail and white powder falls from a letter. Is it anthrax?
- A crop duster is spraying in an unauthorized area, at an unscheduled time. Is it spreading the plague?
- Fourteen people fall ill after eating at the same fast food restaurant. Coincidence or food poisoning?

These three scenarios have two common elements--infectious organisms may be present, and people need answers, fast. Since 1998, Idaho Technology has been preparing for exactly such scenarios. A 46 pound machine called the R.A.P.I.D. System provides specific answers to frightening possibilities in only 15 to 25 minutes.

R.A.P.I.D. stands for **Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Identification Device**. The machine is designed to be portable, durable, accurate, and fast.

HOW IT WORKS: The R.A.P.I.D. System works by identifying dangerous organisms through their unique genetic signature. For instance, the DNA from salmonella bacteria is different from the DNA of smallpox virus. The R.A.P.I.D. System reads those differences. The operation is simple. A R.A.P.I.D. user prepares the sample and loads it into the fully automated machine. The sample can be just about anything: air, blood, urine, food, water, even soil. Through alternating cycles of heating and cooling the sample, the R.A.P.I.D. System isolates and amplifies even minute traces of an infectious organism. Easy to use software allows the R.A.P.I.D. System to automatically collect and interpret data. The R.A.P.I.D. System reports the result within 15 to 25 minutes.

WHAT IT CAN DETECT: The R.A.P.I.D. System can recognize biowarfare agents including organisms that cause: anthrax, plague, tularemia, and brucellosis. The R.A.P.I.D. System can also identify germs that cause human diseases such as pneumonia, gastrointestinal disease, salmonella food poisoning, and E. coli O157:H7 food poisoning. Tests are planned or being developed for organisms that cause: typhoid, cholera, shigella, influenza, smallpox, botulism, listeria, and yellow fever.

WHO CAN USE IT: The system is fully automated. Users do not need an advanced science degree. A user needs about two days of training before taking the R.A.P.I.D. System into the field. In the field, the user operates a push button interface. Through a secure, online web browser, a user can send data immediately to remote locations, allowing experts at a home base view and confirm reactions as they occur. Agencies or organizations that could benefit from R.A.P.I.D. technology include: public health agencies, law enforcement agencies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, manufacturers of personal care products, food producers, and the military.

WHERE IT GETS USED: The R.A.P.I.D. System is portable and field-hardened. It can be transported over air, land, or sea. The R.A.P.I.D. System and all accessories fit inside a backpack. It is air and water tight, resistant to temperature, humidity, shock and vibration. The United States Department of Defense has used the R.A.P.I.D. System worldwide since 1998.

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