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mstearns@iocomm.com**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****SolmeteX mercury removal products now available through Patterson Dental**

NORTHBOROUGH, MA —January 27, 2003— Patterson Dental Supply, Inc. (“Patterson”), one of the nation’s top distributors of products for dental practices, has announced the addition of the SolmeteX™ line of amalgam separator systems to their offerings. The SolmeteX Amalgam Separator is a patent pending device that has been certified to comply with ISO 11143 with a rating of 99.82% removal of mercury.

Patterson has the largest direct sales force in the industry, totaling more than 1,000 sales representatives and equipment/software specialists serving the United States and Canada.

According to SolmeteX Manager of North American Dental Sales, Al Dubé shipment of SolmeteX Amalgam Separator units to Patterson has already begun. “We’re very excited to be able to make this technology available to a wider range of dental offices,” comments Dubé, and he adds, “as more dental associations across the nation continue to endorse the SolmeteX amalgam separation systems, more dental practices are searching for convenient ways to make the purchase. With a great reputation and a large staff of professional salespeople, Patterson offers a perfect fit.”

Dental Societies in New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Hawaii, Oklahoma and Louisiana, have formally endorsed SolmeteX mercury removal technology. Canadian dental offices, particularly in Toronto and Montreal, also use SolmeteX technology and the US Navy is installing SolmeteX systems at all their dental clinics.

Patterson Dental Supply, Inc. (NASDAQ: PDCO), a wholly owned subsidiary of Patterson Dental Company, is one of the nation's largest value-added distributors of dental products and services to dentists, dental laboratories, institutions and other healthcare providers throughout North America.

Massachusetts-based SolmeteX holds numerous patents, and has been the recipient of several awards for their efforts in helping companies worldwide reduce contamination. Their core business is the development and manufacture of specialized technologies for the safe and economical removal of metal and metal complexes from water.

Patterson Dental Company can be found on line at www.pattersondental.com.

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