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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SolmeteX is approved amalgam separator vendor for San Francisco

Northborough, MA — October, 2003 — The Department of the Environment, City and County of San Francisco, California—SF Environment—has named Massachusetts company SolmeteX, Inc. as an approved vendor of amalgam separation equipment.

As part of a vigorous campaign to eliminate mercury contamination in the San Francisco area, SF Environment has set up stringent parameters for compliance with the ruling that requires amalgam separator installation by dental offices. In order to qualify as an approved amalgam separation system in San Francisco City and County, the product must have a waste amalgam removal efficiency of 95% or more when tested in accordance with ISO 11143-99.

A compact, maintenance-free unit designed for ease of installation, the SolmeteX Hg5 has achieved ISO-11143 Certification from Intertek Testing Services, a global leader in testing, inspecting and certification. The Hg5® amalgam separator system from SolmeteX has been proven to remove greater than 99% of mercury, solid as well as dissolved, from the waste stream of a vacuum dental system. In addition, the SolmeteX complete removal and recovery program includes recycling of the used collection container by an approved mercury-recycling company.

SolmeteX amalgam separation systems are available through all the major distributors of dental supplies.

#### ***Mercury contamination—background information.***

Mercury has been shown to be extremely toxic to humans and to the environment. Dental amalgam is a safe and cost-effective restorative material, but discharges of dental amalgam compounds are a significant contributor to mercury in the environment. Why?

When amalgam is flushed down the drain, it is attacked by sulphur-eating bacteria. It turns from metallic mercury into methyl mercury, and ends up eventually as part of the plankton eaten by small fish. As the chain continues, with small fish being eaten by larger ones, the toxicity of the mercury greatly increases, and so does the damage it produces to the humans who consume the fish. This process, known as biomagnification,

increases the concentration of mercury by 1,000,000 times as it moves up the food chain causing damage to women of childbearing age and children.

According to EPA, 44 of 50 US states have mercury alerts on water bodies and have issued warnings regarding the consumption of fish. In order to protect people, regulatory agencies in the USA and around the world have mandated ultra-low wastewater discharge limits, typically in the range of 1 part per billion.

SolmeteX is a Massachusetts-based, privately owned company. Their core business is the development and manufacture of specialized technologies for the safe and economical removal of metal and metal complexes from water. In business since 1994, SolmeteX holds numerous patents, and has been the recipient of several awards for their efforts in helping companies worldwide reduce contamination.

SolmeteX can be found online at <http://www.solmetex.com/>