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Purolite and SolmeteX, Inc. sign distribution and manufacturing agreement to commercialize a new breakthrough nanotechnology for the removal of arsenic from drinking water.

NORTHBOROUGH, MA — December 14, 2004— SolmeteX, Inc. has developed a new breakthrough nanotechnology for the removal of arsenic from drinking water. Known as ArsenX™^{mp} the new patent-pending technology has demonstrated its capacity and effectiveness in extensive field trials conducted in the southwest United States.

ArsenX™^{mp} will be manufactured by Purolite, which is the 2nd largest manufacturer of ion exchange resins globally, producing over 500 different resins and adsorbents for a variety of water treatment and specialty applications. ArsenX™^{mp} will be manufactured at Purolite's Philadelphia facility and will complement a number of selective resins Purolite offers for groundwater remediation applications such as nitrate, perchlorate and hexavalent chrome removal, to name a few. Under the agreement, Purolite will market the ArsenX™^{mp} worldwide using their extensive sales network that currently sells product in over 100 countries.

Largely the result of minerals dissolving from weathered rocks and soils, arsenic is widely distributed throughout the crust of the earth. Absolutely tasteless and odorless, arsenic is highly toxic and carcinogenic. Long-term exposure to arsenic via drinking water has been proven to cause cancer of the skin, lungs, urinary tract, bladder, and kidney.

In the US, there are over 4,000 municipalities that have drinking water with higher arsenic levels than the current maximum contaminant limit (MCL) of 10 micrograms per liter. Additionally, it is estimated that 14 million American homes with private wells that exceed the current maximum contaminant level.

According to SolmeteX CEO, Owen Boyd, ArsenX™^{mp} has shown tremendous capacity, combining all of the well-known benefits of Ion Exchange media with the scientifically proven performance features of granular iron media. "The main advantages of ArsenX™^{mp} are the fact that it's highly selective for arsenic and requires no backwashing due to the durability of the polymer support. That translates to long operational life and a system that it is very simple to use," states Boyd. ArsenX™^{mp} is NSF-61 approved for use in potable drinking water systems.

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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.

Besides arsenic removal from drinking water, SolmeteX technologies are also used for removal of arsenic from semiconductor waste and water used in cooling towers. SolmeteX has long been a leading developer of mercury removal technology from dental waste, medical waste, medical waste incinerators, clinical analyzer waste, ground water, and laboratory waste.

SolmeteX can be found online at www.solmetex.com

Purolite can be found online at www.puroliteusa.com