Research presented at ISSA/Interclean 2016 shows that single-use towels offer the most hygienic option for hand drying

Brussels, Belgium – May 31, 2016 – The European Tissue Symposium (ETS) took an active role in ISSA/Interclean 2016 providing a platform for experts to present the latest research demonstrating how single-use towels offer the most hygienic option for hand drying in public washrooms.

Leading microbiologists Keith Redway from the University of Westminster and Professor Mark Wilcox of the University of Leeds and Leeds Teaching Hospitals, presented their research findings during an in-depth session at ISSA/Interclean in Amsterdam earlier this month. Keith Redway, in addition, presented his study in a teaser slot at the Innovation Lab, before the in-depth session. Both events enjoyed strong attendance and delegates were presented with results of the most recent studies into optimal hand drying following hand washing, including key facts and figures to help prevent the spread of infection.

Keith Redway presented his latest, independent research into the potential for hand drying to spread viruses in the washroom. Having already examined the spread of bacteria and fungi, he and his colleagues were keen to explore the risk that different hand drying methods pose for the dispersal of viruses and the contamination of people and the washroom environment. They compared three different hand drying methods – jet air dryers, warm air dryers and single use paper towels - and measured the virus spread over distance, height and in the air.

"We found a huge difference between jet air dryers and warm air dryers," explained Redway. *"Jet air dryers have an air speed of 600km per hour and have greater potential to spread viruses higher and wider. Air dispersed from jet air dryers was also found to float in the air for longer and so increase the risk of transmission."*

Further, Professor Mark Wilcox presented the results of his own research and reminded the audience that the most important ways for micro-organisms to spread are via hands and in the air*. "Our results show that jet air dryers spread 4.5 times as many organisms as warm air dryers and almost 30 times as many organisms as paper towels. In recent new experiments, we found that, over a seven day period, a hospital washroom with paper towels showed lower levels of contamination and contamination with fewer bacteria than a similar washroom with jet air dryers."*

"Our research suggests that wherever cross infection or hygiene is of paramount concern, the choice of hand-drying methods should be carefully considered," concluded Redway.

"ISSA/Interclean is a great place to meet ETS members and also provides the chance to dialogue with operators from around the world," said Roberto Berardi, ETS chairman. *"It is remarkable that cleaning and hygiene operators from across the globe are familiar with ETS studies and very interested to be updated on the latest research. We make sure that we have clear materials like this new animation that distributors of paper products can use and share with their customers."*

The complete study of Keith Redway from the University of Westminster is available to download free via: http://europeantissue.com/hygiene/studies/hand-dryingsingleuse-towels/ and the new animation illustrates the research in a clear and lively manner.

Click here to view the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJPxvHPCPUI&feature=youtu.be and don't forget to share and post https://youtu.be/nJPxvHPCPUI

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About ETS
ETS is the European Tissue Paper Industry Association. The members of ETS represent the majority of tissue paper producers throughout Europe and around 90% of the total European tissue production. ETS was founded in 1971 and is based in Brussels. For more information: www.europeantissue.com.

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