

NEW MERGER SEES SLS BRANCH OUT INTO EUROPE

Scientific Laboratory Supplies (SLS) has teamed up with Dominique Dutscher, a French laboratory equipment distributor, to deliver laboratory supplies across Europe.

The new merger will create the largest independent European laboratory supplier, with a combined revenue of around £154m. It will also mean that customers will now have access to a larger product portfolio in the UK and Europe.

Jocelyne Cachat, Marketing Director at Dominique Dutscher, said of the partnership: "Joining with Scientific Laboratory Supplies will strengthen the position of the group in both the UK and Europe, and it will allow us to

share best practice while investing in new opportunities to build on our levels of service and customer satisfaction.

"We are particularly excited about the extension of our group activities and the geographical reach that this change will bring."

The two organisations will share best practice on marketing and logistics in order to create extra value for clients and suppliers. Alongside this, the companies will also upgrade their distribution capabilities so that both product choice and customer services are improved. The deal has been approved by the boards of both companies, who will continue to trade under their separate names.

Ian Roulstone, Sales Director at SLS, added: "SLS has grown significantly over its 25-year history, through a solid commitment to people and a



tailored, flexible approach to serving our customers. We have done this through remaining fully independent and maintaining a personal touch that marks us out from our global competitors.

"To be able to extend that same message on a European basis by joining together with such a like-minded organisation is the single most exciting and valuable development in our company's history."

www.scientificlabs.co.uk



ETS TO SHARE LATEST RESEARCH ON HAND DRYING AT FIS/HIS 2016

The European Tissue Symposium (ETS) has confirmed its presence at the FIS/HIS conference 2016, held in Edinburgh from 6-8 November. The joint conference of the Federation of Infection Societies (FIS) Annual Conference and the 10th Healthcare Infection Society (HIS) International Conference 2016 will gather scientists, microbiologists and other experts from around the world over a three day conference.

In addition to taking booth 18 in the Lennox hall, ETS will be hosting a symposium entitled: 'The Risk Of Microbe Dispersal During Hand Drying' on Monday 7th of November at 5PM in the Sidlaw room, sharing the recent results from research highlighting the alleged superiority of single-use towels in ensuring

optimal hygiene levels in public washrooms.

During the symposium, there will be two keynote presentations:

The first of which - 'The Risk Of Microbe Dispersal And Aerosolisation By Different Hand-Drying Methods Used In Public Washrooms' - will see Emeritus fellow microbiologist Keith Redway from the Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Westminster, present the results of his research on the risk of microbe dispersal during hand drying, including key facts and figures that describe the spread of viruses.

Following this, the second presentation - 'Markedly Variable Risks Of Bacterial Dissemination According To Choice Of Hand Drying Method' - sees leading medical microbiologist Professor Mark Wilcox, of the University of Leeds and Leeds Teaching Hospitals, present data demonstrating the marked variation in extent of bacterial spread according to hand drying method. The potential implications of these results for infection control will be discussed.

Previous studies undertaken by the Universities of Leeds and Westminster have shown that

electric hand dryers are more likely to disperse bacteria and fungi than single-use towels. In the latest study by the University of Westminster, a bacteriophage model was used to compare three different hand-drying methods for their potential to disperse the virus and generate aerosols to contaminate other persons, the washroom environment and the air during use.

ETS Chairman, Roberto Berardi said: "It is an honour for us to be able to share the latest developments in hand drying research at such a relevant event. Appropriate hand drying after hand washing in public washrooms is essential in helping to minimise the spread of infection.

"Our industry places great emphasis on hygiene, and studies have consistently shown that single-use towels offer the most effective way to help limit the spread of microbes in the washroom. These recent results indicate that the type of hand-drying device offered in public washrooms should be carefully chosen, especially where there are overriding cross-contamination concerns such as in hospitals and the food industry."

www.europeantissue.com