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Innomech helps develop new Xceloprotect containment system

Automation consultancy GB Innomech (Innomech) has helped Capsugel to develop and launch a new high performance containment system for use with its Xcelodose® precision powder micro-dosing system. Xceloprotect™ has been designed by high containment specialist manufacturer Powder Systems Ltd (PSL) to protect operators from potential exposure to highly potent compounds when using Xcelodose to manufacture batches of filled capsules for clinical trials or for small scale production.

Innomech's role was to re-engineer Xcelodose for easier cleaning and maintenance, and to enable its integration into a high performance containment system without affecting system performance or operational efficiency. The isolator hood has been designed to deliver Occupational Exposure Level 5 performance (ie <1 mcg per m^3 over an 8 hour time weighted period) for Safebridge 3 and 4 applications and allows operators to access all routine system functions through six glove ports in the acrylic canopy. The reconfigured Xcelodose system is seated on a mechanically-isolated platform to prevent vibration transfer from the HEPA filtration system.

Innomech's design team has also repositioned all the mechanical and electrical mechanisms for the capsule-filling and weighing system into the lower half of the isolator to avoid contamination and to provide service technicians with safe and easy access without breaking containment. Existing Xcelodose systems in the field can also be retrofitted with a special kit.

"Xceloprotect is one of several recent Innomech projects where we have been appointed to reconfigure or upgrade a client's existing equipment for a new application or to comply with new health, safety or other regulatory requirements," said Tim Mead, managing director of Innomech.

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"Capsugel, Innomech and Powder Systems have worked together to develop Xceloprotect as a novel glove box solution for Xcelodose and to further increase operator safety when filling capsules with high potency pharmaceutical powders. The small footprint system has been mounted on wheels allowing it to be easily moved to any location and avoiding the need for a dedicated clean room with all its associated costs," said David Edwards, director of pharmaceutical technology at Capsugel.

Xceloprotect is being manufactured by Nexus IE, who already manufacture, service and support all of Capsugel's Xcelodose systems. The first Xceloprotect system has already been installed by one of the world's top five pharmaceutical companies for micro-dosing of highly potent compounds and further systems are now being manufactured.

Notes to editors:

About GB Innomech
GB Innomech (Innomech) specialises in automating highly complex and labour-intensive manufacturing processes to maximise outputs, improve product quality and boost business performance. The company works with major international manufacturers in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices and environmental, as well as earlier-stage businesses looking to bring breakthrough technologies or products to market.

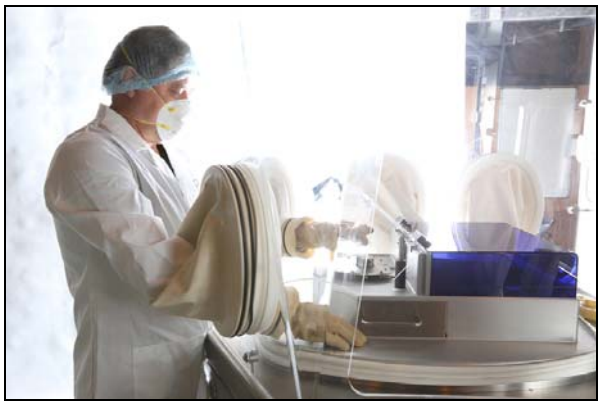
Innomech has a growing market reputation for solving the toughest of manufacturing problems by the early identification and management of risk, often cross-fertilising technologies and techniques from a range of industry sectors. All projects from initial feasibility studies through to building production-scale machines are conducted to high specification pharmaceutical industry standards and are designed to comply with GAMP5, FDA and other international standards.

The company was founded in 1990, is based at The Innovation Centre in Witchford, north of Cambridge and was awarded The Queen's Award for Enterprise 2009 to recognise its sustained growth in international markets.

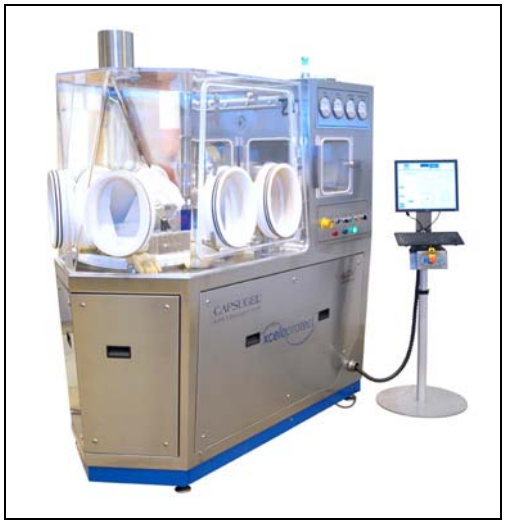
For additional information about GB Innomech please visit www.innomech.co.uk or contact:
- Press enquiries to Simon McKay on +44 (0)1353 741075 or email to simonmckay@innomech.co.uk
- All other enquiries to Tim Mead at Innomech on +44 (0)1353 667394

Photographs

Print quality JPEGs of the images below have been attached to the original email or are available on request from Simon McKay (details above). Alternative images can be supplied.



1 Capsugel, Innomech and Powder Systems have worked together to develop Xceloprotect, a novel glove box solution for Xcelodose. Xceloprotect has been designed to further increase operator safety when filling capsules with high potency pharmaceutical powders.
Credit: Powder Systems Ltd



2 Innomech has re-engineered Xcelodose for easier cleaning, maintenance and to enable integration into a high performance containment system. All the mechanical and electrical mechanisms for the capsule-filling and weighing system have been re-positioned into the lower half of the isolator to avoid contamination and to provide safe and easy access for servicing.
Credit: Powder Systems Ltd

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