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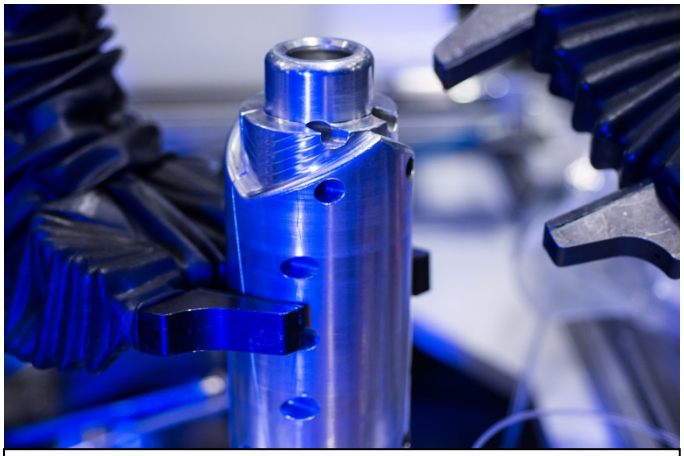
ARTMS™ Products Inc. licenses Canadian technology to address the global medical isotope supply challenge

A TRIUMF-led consortium is granting sole rights for its proprietary technetium-99m production technology to ARTMS™ Products, Inc.



ARTMS™ Products Inc. hardware, such as this target capsule, will enable direct technetium-99m production on a hospital-based cyclotron.

September 14, 2016, Vancouver, Canada — A consortium of institutions led by TRIUMF, Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics and accelerator-based science, is granting sole rights for its proprietary technetium-99m (Tc-99m) production technology to ARTMS™ Products, Inc (ARTMS). Technetium-99m is used in over 80% of all nuclear medicine imaging procedures and is vital to patient care in areas such as cardiology, oncology, and neurology.

"The 2009 shortage of Tc-99m clearly showed how fragile the international supply of this important medical isotope is to patient care," said Dr. Paul Schaffer, Chief Executive Officer of ARTMS. "ARTMS is confident that this new technology will offer Tc-99m supply stability for those jurisdictions that choose to implement it."

Typically sourced from an ageing global reactor fleet, Tc-99m has been subject to significant supply disruptions in recent years. ARTMS' production technology promises to provide a reliable, cost effective, and safe supply of this critical medical isotope. The license includes all the required products and procedures for the production of Tc-99m using common hospital-based and commercial cyclotrons, through the bombardment of a high-energy proton beam against specific chemical 'targets'.

"The ARTMS production technology offers many advantages, and that is why we believe our technology is truly disruptive and that it will gain widespread adoption," Dr. Schaffer added. "Not only does the ARTMS production technology provide regional supply security of Tc-99m, it also offers favourable economics, and aids to eliminate the need for highly-enriched uranium, which is currently used by nuclear reactors to produce this isotope."

"This agreement represents the culmination of six years of hard work by a dedicated team from across Canada, including TRIUMF, the BC Cancer Agency, Lawson Health Research Institute, and the Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization," said Dr. Jonathan Bagger, Director of TRIUMF. "Today

marks the completion of a major milestone as we move to commercialize a decentralized, green, and Canadian-made, technology that can produce Tc-99m daily at hundreds of hospital-based cyclotrons around the world. This licensing agreement marks the beginning of a new era in Tc-99m production and supply security."

More information on the recent global isotope shortages, Tc-99m, and the story of ARTMS can be found in this media backgrounder and more information on medical isotopes and cyclotrons can be found in this FAQ.

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About ARTMS Products, Inc.

ARTMS™ Products Inc. is a leader in the development of novel technologies and products which enable the production of the world's most-used diagnostic imaging isotope, technetium-99m (Tc-99m), using local, hospital-based medical cyclotrons. ARTMS holds the exclusive global commercialization rights to award-winning and proprietary Canadian inventions which address these challenges and which offer the prospect of revolutionizing the nuclear medicine industry.

About TRIUMF

TRIUMF is Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics and accelerator-based science. An international centre for discovery and innovation, TRIUMF advances fundamental, applied, and interdisciplinary research for science, medicine, and business. Owned and operated by a university consortium, TRIUMF trains and inspires future leaders in science and technology. The laboratory is a hub for inquiry and ingenuity, a Canadian centre of excellence deeply integrated into the global scientific community. TRIUMF's multidisciplinary team of over 500 staff and trainees collaborates with Canadian and international users who visit the laboratory to leverage its world-class facilities. Together, they drive compelling research and develop ideas and innovations that benefit humanity. Connect with TRIUMF on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram: TRIUMFLab. www.triumf.ca