



Tuesday, September 22, 2020

AusDiagnostics opens state-of-the-art production facility and launches new extraction kit product line to target SARS-CoV-2 and infections beyond the pandemic

AusDiagnostics has opened a new state-of-the-art production facility in Sydney, alongside the launch of their new Puryx extraction kit product line.

AusDiagnostics was the first Australian manufacturer to produce a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test for SARS-CoV-2 in January 2020. The tests have been used in most of the public hospitals in Sydney and Melbourne for the past six months, plus various laboratories in other states, as well as overseas in the UK, US and Europe.

The Puryx product line, which is manufactured at AusDiagnostics' Sydney headquarters in Mascot, encompasses kits that extract pathogen derived nucleic acids from patient samples to prepare them for subsequent laboratory detection of infections and other pathogens, including testing for COVID-19.

There has been a global shortage of necessary reagents and kits to adequately address COVID-19 testing. Short supplies have been prioritised to other countries, and Australia and New Zealand has been consistently relegated by larger suppliers.

In response, AusDiagnostics partnered with the Federal Government in June to pledge the creation of the new facility to meet the current and future demands, and prioritise the needs of Australian testing facilities and hospitals.

While the imminent focus is on viral extraction kits for COVID-19, AusDiagnostics is poised to rapidly expand the platform to meet the demands of the changing market beyond the pandemic.

Current manufacturing allows the production of enough kits to facilitate one million extractions per month. The Puryx kits are designed for high throughput and are optimised for robotic handling platforms. The Puryx Rapid extraction kits facilitate extraction in as little as 25 minutes, allowing more than 1400 samples to be purified in a day, while the Puryx Comprehensive Kits (superior sensitivity) completes extraction in 90 minutes, allowing for almost 400 samples per day.

"We're proud to partner with the Federal Government to build this facility to manufacture extraction kits domestically. It's a key effort in securing the entire testing process for COVID-19, respiratory illnesses and other infections," says AusDiagnostics CEO, Scott Gilroy.

"Our research team has been at the forefront of this pandemic and continues to deliver quality innovations in the diagnostics space. We understand the importance of not only providing supply, but also thinking ahead to how we can minimise time from sample collection to actual diagnosis.

"Despite what we might face in the future, AusDiagnostics is committed to providing the highest quality testing products and diagnostics technology so that we will be ready to respond to demands both domestically and internationally."

The number of COVID-19 cases in Australia has surpassed 26,800 with more than 840 deaths. Globally, infections have risen above 30 million and more than 950,000 people have died, according to the World Health Organization.

About the technology:

Puryx uses proprietary chemistry and proven magnetic particle technology to purify genetic materials from samples. Puryx Rapid extraction takes significantly less time – almost 100 samples can be processed in just 25 minutes compared to hours using other purification methods. The significantly shorter processing time required from sample to result forms a critical capability for widescale infection screening.

The highly sensitive and specific Puryx Comprehensive extraction removes essentially all of the impurities that can interfere with the detection of target genes. This yields a higher purity and concentration of genes for more reliable diagnostic results. This extraction process is crucial for molecular diagnostic methods, such as Polymerase Chain Reaction, or PCR, the current standard method used for detecting viral genes (including COVID-19 testing).

About AusDiagnostics:

AusDiagnostics Pty Ltd is a leading international company that designs, manufactures and markets a comprehensive suite of multiplexing molecular diagnostic assays and reagents. Founded in August 2006, AusDiagnostics also supports robotic instruments for human diagnostics, animal diagnostics and applied testing. In the past five years, the company has expanded its reach to global customers through offices in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. In 2018, AusDiagnostics opened a manufacturing facility in the United Kingdom to support the supply of products to its growing network of distribution partners in more than 25 countries. AusDiagnostics continues to develop new technology, and conduct scientific research into innovative diagnostic methodologies for customers around the world.

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