

Tri-Air Jan 07

Air Purifier that Kills H5N1 Bird Flu Launched by British Scientists at Tri-Air Developments

LONDON--British scientists have developed a biotechnology air purifier that kills colds and flu germs, including H5N1 bird flu, as well as MRSA and Anthrax. The system simulates the production of fresh air to destroy airborne viruses and bacteria in minutes within private, work and public spaces.

H5N1 pandemic is forecast to cost \$2 trillion of global GDP, with mortality of 70 million people (source: World Bank, 2006).

Unlike a conventional air filtration device, the air purifier uses a non-thermal plasma and outputs hydroxyl radical production, to create a benign environment, lethal to viruses. The unit has 99.9999 per cent effectiveness in killing an airborne surrogate test virus present in less than five minutes (ref: The UK HPA Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Porton Down, June 2006). Tri-Air Developments believe this is 100 times more effective than current methods of decontamination.

The prototype unit, with worldwide patents pending, can be readily adapted for a range of domestic, commercial, medical and industrial applications, including within large ventilation systems for healthcare as well as for homeland security says inventors Tri-Air Developments.

Commercialisation advisors PricewaterhouseCoopers are now contacting USA and other global manufacturers to structure rights for production in 2007.

The unit creates hydroxyl radicals to destroy microbes including flu and cold viruses and bacteria in the air and on surface contact. Hydroxyl radicals are found naturally in abundance in outdoor fresh air, with high concentrations in forested mountain areas. When someone sneezes the particles of mucus ejected are full of viruses: the hydroxyl radicals from the unit condense onto these particles and destroy the viruses even in close human proximity.

The decontamination process occurs both within and outside the machine and is a fundamental principle behind its unique design. The process creates a continual supply of hydroxyl radicals dispersed throughout the room, making it effective even without processing all of the air through the unit.

The biotech unit uniquely combines three well-established decontamination technologies to overcome their inherent individual shortcomings: non-thermal plasma; ultraviolet catalysis; and 'open air factor'.

Tri-Air Developments was co-founded by the UK's Buildings Research Establishment, with technology transfer specialists Inventa Partners and microbiologists at Promanade Ltd.

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