

ENERSOL at Medica 2006

Medica is the world premier Health and Medical exhibition held in Dusseldorf, Germany. Last year 4,000 exhibitors from 62 nations and 137,500 trade visitors attended Medica.

ENERSOL participated at Medica for the first time displaying the latest range of condom and syringe testing equipment. ENERSOL was part of the Innovation Australia stand organised by Austrade. *Photos from Medica 2006 on Page 03.*

New package seal integrity tester unveiled

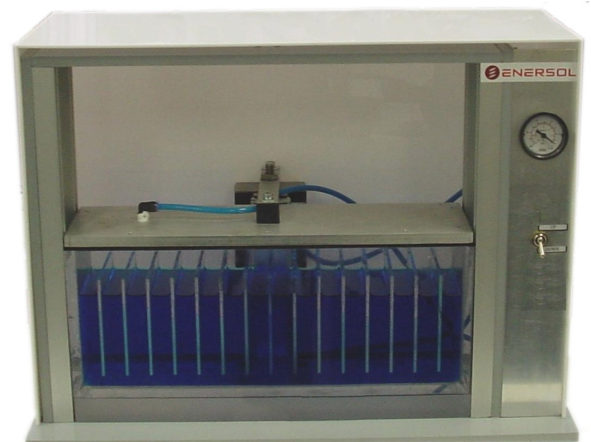
ENERSOL has developed a new generation wet package seal integrity tester. This new design is aimed at providing automated operation and reduces the complexity of the operation.

Operated by a simple flick of a switch, the upper position opens the lid, the lower position closes the lid and starts evacuating air and the middle position holds the vacuum inside the tank.

ENERSOL has replaced the electric vacuum pump with a compressed air pump. Hence, the only power source for the new design is compressed air.

This new generation ENERSOL wet package seal integrity tester reduces the complexity of the testing process and therefore increases productivity and efficiency.

The new wet package seal integrity tester will be available from mid 2007.



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Yulex signs deal with TechDevice

US based companies Yulex Corporation and TechDevice Corporation have signed a lucrative deal to manufacture medical devices and products using Yulex latex.

Gordon Brown, president of TechDevice Corporation says "The demand for an alternative material that is superior in performance to synthetic latex products and does not pose serious health risks to the end-user is enormous"

Yulex is the worlds only bio based commercial resource for latex suitable for people with Type I latex allergy.

Ponderings..

If your father is a poor man, it is your fate but if your father-in-law is a poor man, it's your stupidity.

If quitters never win, and winners never quit, what fool came up with "quit while you're ahead"?

In the next two days, tomorrow will be yesterday.

The church, condoms and HIV

Despite some comments and statements made by certain cardinals and bishops advocating certain amount of relaxation to the strict rules by the church on condom use, the Vatican remains totally opposed to the use of condoms, at least officially.

The church was due to discuss the use of condoms to fight AIDS at a conference on infectious diseases that was due to be held in November 2006. However, up to today, the Vatican has failed to publish any official statement and the findings or the conclusions reached at the conference.

The catholic church formally opposes any use of condoms advising fidelity within marriage or sexual abstinence. Pontifical council for the family president cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo has said officially that the church does not allow the use of condoms – even to prevent HIV/AIDS infection – because their use "implies sexually immoral conduct". The statement from Cardinal Trujillo came after some confusing remarks made by Fr. Juan Antonio Martinez Camino, the secretary of the Spanish bishop conference in early 2005. Fr. Camino said "condoms could have a place in the global approach to fighting AIDS".

In contrast, Cardinal Trujillo has insisted that the "church collaborates effectively and meaningfully in the prevention of AIDS, promoting the education of persons in faithful conjugal love that is open to life".

In 2004, the Vatican published a document which says, condoms have holes in the them - allowing HIV - the virus that causes AIDS – to pass through. The document called the "Family values vs. Safe sex" is a detailed and passionately argued defense of the position of the church on condoms. Cardinal Trujillo, who is known to have authored the document, is known for his hard line stance against contraceptives. In sharp contrast to the findings of WHO, USFDA and several large international organisations promoting condoms as the most effective weapon against AIDS, Cardinal Trujillo goes as far as to suggest that condoms may even be one of the main reasons for the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Cardinal Trujillo's statement as given above was based on a report prepared by Dave Lytle – a senior researcher at the USFDA in the 1980's and 1990's. Dave Lytle conducted several tests on condoms. Cardinal Trujillo apparently misquoted the findings to prove his theory that HIV is roughly 450 times smaller than the sperm and could penetrate the thin latex film of the condom.

Continued on page 4..

Ansell buys Unimil

Ansell Ltd, the New Jersey based Australian barrier protection company has successfully completed the acquisition of Unimil S.A of Poland, the polish condom manufacturer. Ansell increased its earlier bid of USD 34 million to approx USD 42 million to make this acquisition.

Unimil which had previously been part owned by Germany's shooting star manufacturer, Condomi, later bought the much larger German factory when it fell into financial difficulties.

Ansell expects to create a larger foothold in Germany and Poland through the acquisition. "Ansell is excited by the prospect of Unimil joining the company. Unimil dedicated management and employees, respected brands and additional manufacturing operations provide important growth opportunities". Doug Tough CEO of Ansell stated in a public announcement. Ansell acquired 75% interest in Wuhan Jissbon Sanitary Products Co Ltd, which owns a condom factory in China last year.

The cricket World Cup and HIV

UN has teamed up with a few leading cricketers to publicize a campaign against HIV/AIDS during the World Cup cricket in West Indies which started in March 2007.

Indian captain Rahul Dravid and Australian captain Ricky Ponting are among the leading cricketers who will join the UN-sponsored drive during the seven weeks of cricket to be played in the Caribbean, which is a region badly affected by HIV/AIDS. The International cricket council has joined the UN to involve the cricketers in the campaign against the disease.

UN AIDS Executive Director Petar Piot said "Sports stars such as top cricketers can act as role models for today's young generation and reach out to them".

Cricket is very popular in many countries badly affected by HIV/AIDS and includes the Caribbean where the 2007 World Cup is being hosted.



ICC Cricket World Cup
WEST INDIES 2007

MEDICA 2006



The Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Around 40 million people worldwide are infected with HIV, 95% of whom live in developing countries.

In 2004, approximately five million people were newly infected with the virus.

HIV/AIDS has killed more than 20 million people worldwide. 3.1 million people died of AIDS related causes in 2004.

AIDS is the leading cause of death in African and the fourth-leading cause of death worldwide

Your contributions are welcome...

ENERSOL's International Newsletter is produced as a service to the latex industry. If you have any news or views you would like to contribute please send them to us by e-mail to jgerofi@enersol.com.au or by fax +612 9552 1709

Please keep your contributions as short as possible. Every care is taken with the material contained in newsletters but no responsibility can be taken for its accuracy and it should not be used as technical advice or in formulating decisions.

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The church, condoms and HIV (Continued..)

Dave Lytle promptly protested "My reaction is one of disappointment". He also said "Cardinal Trujillo took a number from my study and basically misused it" Lytle told Panorama – the BBC program. He further elaborated that only one condom out of all those he tested might conceivably leak any infections HIV and even if it did, the amount would be minimal.

Under international regulations imposed by bodies like WHO and USFDA, batches of condoms have to be sampled by testers who inflated them with water and roll them on a blotter to see if there are any damp spots that would indicate the presence of any holes or ruptures. Most manufacturers use an electronic test of every individual condom which can show up any flaws or holes.

Cardinal Trujillo has quoted many scientists and researchers, but they all support the use of condoms against HIV.

Dr Ronald Carey who did research on condoms concluded that one HIV virus could get through during the use of 200 condoms, but without condoms, the recipients would have exposure to about 600,000 HIV viruses. Cardinal Trujillo misused these findings to support his case.

Another researcher quoted by Cardinal Trujillo, Canadian R. Gordon, has said that if everyone used condoms, the AIDS epidemic would stop. The scientific community has widely endorsed the use of condoms as the most effective barrier against HIV/AIDS. They have further mentioned that the risk rate from any permeability might be different in those regions of Africa where HIV prevalence in the general public is much higher.

However, one controversial point that Cardinal Trujillo made is still worth more consideration. In his statement, Cardinal Trujillo mentioned that the safe sex campaign which promotes condoms leads people to think they are completely protected when they are not. Cardinal further claims condoms increase risk-taking behaviour.

Despite the strong statement from Cardinal Trujillo, there had been other statements and comments supporting condom use as an effective weapon against HIV/AIDS. Cardinal George Cocher, who was one of Pope John Paul II's preferred theologians has quoted as saying that the 'use of condoms may be legitimate to stop the spread of AIDS in poor countries'. Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, who used to be the Archbishop of Milan has said that in couples where one partner had HIV/AIDS the use of condoms was "a lesser evil". Cardinal Javier Luzano Barragan a senior Roman Catholic official has said that the "Vatican is studying the use of condoms by persons who have grave diseases, like AIDS". "It is a very difficult and a delicate subject which warrants prudence".

The HIV action groups around the world are lobbying for a dramatic shift of the church's position on condoms saying that the church views cannot replace the arguments of scientists and the world health organisation.

It appears from the above that the Vatican is slowly being forced to admit by some of its most authoritative churchmen that this is a complex moral argument which does not allow for a simple overall ban on the use of condoms.