



STERIS TECHNOLOGIES APPLIED TO GOVERNMENT BIOCHEMICAL DECONTAMINATION EFFORTS

EPA Exemptions Issued For STERIS Technologies To Combat Biochemical Contamination

Mentor, Ohio (July 11, 2002) - STERIS Corporation (NYSE:STE) today announced that it has received Crisis Exemptions from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for four of its technologies to address biochemical contamination. With these exemptions now in place, the Company is involved in the initial stages of project work in this area and is pursuing cooperative research and development agreements with several United States governmental agencies. In order to more effectively address these opportunities, STERIS also announced the formation of a new subsidiary, Strategic Technology Enterprises, Inc.

Strategic Technology Enterprises, Inc. will adapt and market STERIS's technologies to help businesses and government address the risks of biochemical contamination. The subsidiary will offer STERIS's current technologies and new innovations to treat surfaces, environments, equipment, facilities, and other materials and make them safer for human contact. Mr. Gerry Reis, STERIS's Senior Vice President, Corporate Administration, has been named President of the subsidiary and will be responsible for leading its day-to-day operations.

Commenting on these activities, Les C. Vinney, STERIS's President and Chief Executive Officer, said, "One of the key aspects of STERIS's strategic growth plan involves the adaptation of our technologies for use in new markets. These technologies have been used for many years by customers throughout the healthcare, pharmaceutical production, and research industries to help ensure that materials, surfaces, or entire rooms and their contents are free from contamination and made safer for human contact. The EPA exemptions, combined with the project work we have underway and the interest of governmental agencies to conduct cooperative research with STERIS, supports our belief that our technologies can help protect people, products, foods, and facilities from the risks of infection and contamination in environments and industries beyond those we serve today. The formation of Strategic Technology Enterprises, Inc. will allow us to more effectively focus our technologies on these new opportunities."

STERIS Corporation is a leading provider of infection prevention, contamination prevention, microbial reduction, and therapy support systems, products, services and technologies to healthcare, scientific, research, and industrial customers throughout the world. Additional information about STERIS can be found on the Company's Website at www.steris.com.

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This news release contains statements concerning certain trends and other forward-looking

information affecting or relating to the Company and its industry that are intended to qualify for the protections afforded "forward-looking statements" under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements may be identified by the use of forward-looking terms such as "may," "will," "expects," "believes," "anticipates," "plans," "estimates," "projects," "targets," "forecasts" and "seeks," or the negative of such terms or other variations on such terms or comparable terminology. Many important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. Many of these important factors are outside STERIS's control. Changes in market conditions, including competitive factors and changes in government regulations or the interpretation thereof, could cause actual results to differ materially from the Company's expectations. No assurance can be provided as to any future financial results. The Company does not undertake to update or revise any forward looking statements even if events make clear that any projected results, express or implied, will not be realized. Other potential risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include without limitation (a) the potential for increased pressure on pricing that leads to erosion of profit margins, (b) the possibility that market demand will not develop for new technologies, products and applications, (c) the possibility that compliance with the regulations and certification requirements of domestic and foreign authorities may delay or prevent new product introductions or affect the production and marketing of existing products, (d) the potential effects of fluctuations in foreign currencies where the Company does a sizable amount of business, (e) the possibility that implementation of the Company's business improvement initiatives will take longer, cost more or produce lower benefits than anticipated, and (f) the possibility of reduced demand, or reductions in the rate of growth in demand, for the Company's products and services.

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