

19 August 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. NYPD UNVEILS BOATS THAT DETECT RADIOLOGICAL THREATS: *"The NYPD can now sniff out a radiological or nuclear threat miles away on the water thanks to two new high-tech patrol boats and an updated protection plan."*

2. NANOTECH SOLUTION BRINGS CLEAN DRINKING WATER TO A THIRSTY WORLD: *"UniSA scientists have discovered a simple way to remove bacteria and other contaminants from water using tiny particles of pure silica coated with an active nano-material."*

3. GEORGIA: TERROR FEARS OVER WHEREABOUTS OF REGION'S NUCLEAR MATERIAL: *"There is no fear of a nuclear bomb coming out of this region but the bigger danger is that a small amount of uranium combined with conventional explosive terrorists could make a dirty bomb that would make an area the size of the City's Square Mile [London, UK] unusable for 30 or 40 years," said a security source."*

4. BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION EXPERTS TO MEET IN GENEVA FROM 18 TO 22 AUGUST: *"Experts to discuss biosafety and biosecurity, as well as oversight, education, awareness raising, and codes of conduct."*

5. FIRMS IN DEFENCE EXPORT BREACHES: *"Australian companies have repeatedly breached export control regulations designed to prevent sensitive defence technology falling into the hands of North Korea, Iran, China and Russia."*

6. zNOSE(R) DETECTS SARIN AND MUSTARD GAS AT PART PER TRILLION LEVEL: *"Electronic Sensor Technology, a leading provider of innovative homeland security and environmental solutions, announces excellent results of real nerve agent testing in China."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

NYPD UNVEILS BOATS THAT DETECT RADIOLOGICAL THREATS

By Daniel Edward Rosen

Newsday.com

August 16, 2008

"The NYPD can now sniff out a radiological or nuclear threat miles away on the water thanks to two new high-tech patrol boats and an updated protection plan.

The Tactical Radiological Acquisition and Characterization System boats were officially unveiled Friday by the New York Police Department's Counterterrorism Division, part of a demonstration of the department's new plan to protect New York Harbor."

"The boats' sensors can pick up minute amounts of radiation, said Det. David Kao, 49, who oversees one of the boat's command centers, which interprets the data received by its sensors.

Kao would not reveal the exact locations of the boats or what kind of software was used in identifying a foreign contaminant."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.newsday.com/services/newspaper/printedition/saturday/news/ny-nybomb165803096aug16,0,347045.story>

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NANOTECH SOLUTION BRINGS CLEAN DRINKING WATER TO A THIRSTY WORLD

University of South Australia News Release

August 18, 2008

"UniSA scientists have discovered a simple way to remove bacteria and other contaminants from water using tiny particles of pure silica coated with an active nano-material.

The water treatment process is a new concept, not used anywhere else in the world, which has the potential to make a significant contribution to the health of nations worldwide."

"UniSA's Professor of Nanotechnology and Nanomanufacturing, Peter Majewski shared his findings on the new treatment process at the seminar Surface-engineered silica: water treatment for a thirsty world earlier this month as part of the University's free lecture series, Gift of Knowledge 2008 .

"The water treatment process can remove bacteria, chemicals, viruses and other contaminants from water much more effectively than conventional water purification methods," Prof Majewski said.

"Its major benefits include an easy to use chemical and physical treatment process that cleans water without requiring additional energy, and uses recyclable non-toxic base materials like the waste product silica and water, which bring costs down. These features make it a very attractive alternative to desalination, which incurs high energy costs," he said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nano.org.uk/news/aug2008/latest1542.htm>

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GEORGIA: TERROR FEARS OVER WHEREABOUTS OF REGION'S NUCLEAR MATERIAL

By Thomas Harding

Telegraph.co.uk

August 17, 2008

"When the breakaway region of Abkhazia split from Georgia in 1993, the world's only known case of enriched uranium going missing was reported after up to 2kg of the potentially devastating material was stolen from a laboratory.

There are now fears that the organised criminal gangs that are rife in the region could exploit the confusion of the current conflict to loot other stocks."

"There is no fear of a nuclear bomb coming out of this region but the bigger danger is that a small amount of uranium combined with conventional explosive terrorists could make a dirty bomb that would make an area the size of the City's Square Mile unusable for 30 or 40 years," said a security source. "The economic impact would be catastrophic."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/georgia/2575223/Georgia-Terror-fears-over-whereabouts-of-regions-nuclear-material.html>

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BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION EXPERTS TO MEET IN GENEVA FROM 18 TO 22 AUGUST

United Nations Office At Geneva News Release
August 14, 2008

"The 2008 Meeting of Experts from States parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) will be held in Geneva from 18 to 22 August 2008. The Meeting of Experts is part of a four-year programme mandated by the 2006 Sixth Review Conference of the BWC aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Convention and improving its effectiveness as a practical barrier against the development or use of biological weapons. The BWC prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons.

This year the Meeting of Experts will convene to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on:

1. National, regional and international measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity, including laboratory safety and security of pathogens and toxins; and
2. Oversight, education, awareness raising, and adoption and/or development of codes of conduct with the aim of preventing misuse in the context of advances in bio-science and bio-technology research with the potential of use for purposes prohibited by the Convention."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/623C880718912F67C12574A50040EA3F?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpNewsByYear_en)/623C880718912F67C12574A50040EA3F?OpenDocument)

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FIRMS IN DEFENCE EXPORT BREACHES

By Philip Dorling

The Canberra Times [AS]

August 16, 2008

"Australian companies have repeatedly breached export control regulations designed to prevent sensitive defence technology falling into the hands of North Korea, Iran, China and Russia.

Previously undisclosed information issued by the Minister for Defence, Joel Fitzgibbon, reveals that in the past three years there have been 41 known breaches of Australia's defence export regulations."

"Mr Fitzgibbon did not reveal the names of the firms involved or the specific equipment or materials involved in each case.

But he did confirm the rules were broken in relation to both military equipment and so-called "dual use" technology that has both civilian and military applications."

"Seventeen breaches involved the export of chemicals which are regulated because they could be used in the manufacture of chemical weapons, explosives or missile propellants."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/firms-in-defence-export-breaches/1246064.aspx>

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zNOSE(R) DETECTS SARIN AND MUSTARD GAS AT PART PER TRILLION LEVEL

Trading Markets.com

August 19, 2008

"Electronic Sensor Technology (EST) (OTCBB:ESNR), a leading provider of innovative homeland security and environmental solutions, announces excellent results of real nerve agent testing in China. The experiment was performed by EST's distributor in China, Beijing R&D Technology, using a military facility in China.

This is the first time the zNose(R) has actually measured real nerve agents, simulants were used in prior testing. Sarin and Mustard Gas were detected at very low concentrations levels. The minimum detection level (MDL) for Sarin is 85 parts per trillion (ppt) and the MDL for Mustard Gas is 100 ppt. These levels are well below the concentrations that begin to cause effects in an exposed population."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/1833685/>

Further information on the test results can be found at: <http://www.estcal.com/TechPapers/Security/Real Nerve Agents.pdf>

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