

# NIRAS NEWS

Issue Two

## NNC Independent Radiation Assessment Services

### NIRAS Announce Further Expansion

A second phase investment of £250k has been made in new laboratory infrastructure and equipment in response to a growth in demand from the environmental radiochemistry market. This brings total investment in the laboratory to £750k over the last two years.

Five new laboratories have been created to meet the exacting standards required for environmental analysis, new equipment includes two Berthold gross alpha/beta counters and additional alpha spectrometry units, bringing the total to 64 counters. Investment has also been made in new sample receipt areas, sample preparation and archive areas.

Staff levels have increased to 22 technical and 3 support staff to support growth in the business.

**Stuart Allan, NNC Technical Services Director said:**

***“This second phase of investment gives us the facilities to achieve our goal of becoming the largest commercial radiochemical laboratory in the UK”***

#### In this issue:

- Partnership with SAL
- Strengthening the team.
- RPS training.
- Environmental Success
- Cold legs for charity
- Children in Need
- Website news.
- Extended Quality.



*Electro deposition in the Environmental Radiochemistry laboratory*

### Extension to Scope of Quality Assurance

The NIRAS Laboratory is a UKAS accredited testing Laboratory, No. 1011. We are pleased to announce that UKAS has recently granted an extension to the scope of our existing accredited tests, to include gamma-spectrometry in a variety of solid samples and gross alpha beta in sediments and soils. NIRAS has an on-going programme to extend our accreditation. Our current schedule of accreditation is available on request.

NNC has now certified to quality standard ISO 9001: 2000 and is in the process of attaining ISO14001. We expect to achieve full-accredited status by the end of December 2002.

## Partnership with Scientific Analysis Laboratories (SAL) Ltd

**Greg Willetts, NNC  
Analytical Services  
Business Manager  
said**

*"This partnership with  
SAL means we can offer  
the full chemistry and  
radiochemistry analysis  
service for clients at  
one location, drawing  
on both company's  
areas of expertise"*

Linked to our expansion of our environmental radiochemistry facilities, we are pleased to announce a partnership agreement with SAL. SAL will be operating equipment within the NNC Birchwood laboratories to provide a complete chemical analysis service. This will include High Resolution GC-MS, GC-MS, ICP-OES, UV-VIS, IC and traditional techniques. This move enables us to provide a "one-stop-shop" for radiochemical and chemical analysis on NIRAS or potentially radioactive samples. SAL Ltd. is an established independent company specialising in accredited analytical services for the environmental, safety, chemical, petrochemical and manufacturing sectors of industry throughout the UK and worldwide. SAL are well known throughout Europe as experts in High Resolution GC-MS for dioxins, furans and related compounds.

## Strengthening the Team

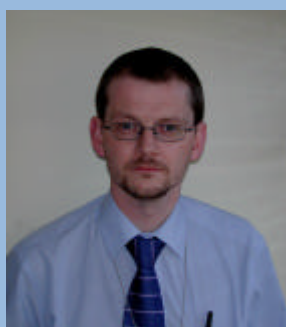
The most important ingredient of any organisation is the experience and knowledge of its people. The NIRAS team are not only broadening their scope but also continuing to increase the experience within the team. Recent arrivals include:



**Frank Pratley**

### Frank Pratley

Frank has joined NIRAS from Harwell Scientifics as our Laboratory Manager, he has spent 27 years as an environmental radiochemist. Frank has been responsible for major sampling and analysis programmes and the design of a range of environmental sampling equipment. Frank's main area of expertise is development of radiochemical methods.



**John Cobb**

### Dr John Cobb

John joined NIRAS from The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority as our Environmental Radiochemistry Team Leader. John, an experienced radiochemist is responsible for project managing our environmental work. John is involved with updating the quality system and advises on quality matters in the laboratory



**Sonia Jarvis**

### Sonia Jarvis

Sonia has also joined us from Harwell Scientifics, as our Sales Support Manager. With a mainly commercial background she has experience in business development and customer service. Sonia will help provide the link between our customers and the laboratory.

### Dr Olivia Marsden

Joins NNC in February from the Centre for radiochemistry Research, Manchester University. Olivia is an exceptional low level separations chemist and is an expert on mass spectrometric techniques such as ICPMS and AMS

## Provision of RPS Training

The ionising Radiation Regulations 1999 require the appointment of Radiation Protection Supervisors (RPS) to control work and manage compliance on behalf of the employer. The RPS must be provided with appropriate training.

Staff within NIRAS Consultancy have extensive experience providing training for users of ionising radiation. Our 2-day course places a special emphasis on the needs of individuals and their companies. In addition courses can be tailored to your specific requirements and held at client premises if required.

Dates for 2003 Courses are:

21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> January  
15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> April  
24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June  
7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> October

NIRAS Consultancy also provides a number of related services, these include:

- Annual RPA hazard survey and compliance audit
- Sealed source leak testing
- Radiation monitor calibration
- Approved Dosimetry Service
- Source dismantling and disposal
- Site surveys

If you require further information on this course or any of the other services provided by this team please contact:

**Andrew Frith on:**  
**01925 895588**  
**Or email:**  
**andrew.frith@nnc.co.uk**

## Environmental Market Wins

We have recently won a number of large projects in the environmental market, including the UK's largest independent local authority environmental radioactive monitoring programme. This involves analysis of environmental samples (fish, milk, sediments, soils etc.) on behalf of a County Council.

We have also won a long term analysis programme on environmental sludge samples for one of UK's largest consultancy companies and finally we have won a long term contract providing radiochemical water quality analysis and interpretation for a UK government department.

## New NIRAS Website

The NNC website has a new look. When you connect you will be able to read about NNC products and services, our latest news and general company information. The NIRAS area has also been upgraded to give details of staff, equipment and the services we can provide.

Log on to:  
[www.nnc.co.uk](http://www.nnc.co.uk) and  
choose Radiological  
Services from the  
Products and Services  
drop down menu



### **Frank says:**

***“Most of my friends and colleagues think I am completely mad but it is for a deserving cause, so all contributions greatly appreciated!”***

### **Cold Legs for Charity**

Eric had Ernie's short fat hairy legs.... Well we have Franks!! Frank Pratlley is 20 months into a marathon of wearing shorts in order to raise money for his favourite charity Leukaemia Research. Frank volunteered to live without long trousers for 2 years.

### **Children In Need**



Fun was had by all this year raising over £500 at NNC Birchwood smashing last years total. Events included a raffle and selling home made cakes. Well done to everyone for their help and contributions.



**All NIRAS staff would like to wish all our customers and future customers a prosperous New Year.**

### **Contact Us**

**Sonia Jarvis, Sales Support Manager,  
01925 895636, [sonia.jarvis@nnc.co.uk](mailto:sonia.jarvis@nnc.co.uk)**

**Greg Willetts, Business Manager,  
01925 895654, [greg.willetts@nnc.co.uk](mailto:greg.willetts@nnc.co.uk)**

**Visit our Website at [www.nnc.co.uk](http://www.nnc.co.uk)**

**NNC Limited, Birchwood Park, Birchwood, Warrington,  
Cheshire, WA3 6BZ**