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Over the past year we have:

- Increased our client base substantially
- Increased sample throughput by 50%.

All the staff at NIRAS would like to thank our clients for their continued support

We wish all our clients and future clients

A Happy Christmas

and a

Prosperous New Year.

New Laboratories to Meet Increased Demand

Thanks to the continued support of our clients, we are currently extending our laboratory facilities to meet future analysis demands. This latest expansion is in addition to the substantial investment already made in NIRAS over the past three years. Increasing our laboratory facilities and analytical equipment will mean that we are able to meet the demand for larger batch sizes or offer faster turnaround times.

Demand has increased in both decommissioning and environmental radiochemistry areas, hence the following expansion is being made, which is due for completion in mid January 2005:

- Creation of a new “active” tritium and carbon -14 laboratory. This will allow 20 “active” samples to be analysed simultaneously, representing a 250% increase in our current capacity.
- A new environmental radiochemical water analysis laboratory designed to be geared to large throughput sample quantities with short turnaround times.

- New soil /concrete/ rubble preparation and grinding areas for ‘active’ and ‘environmental’ samples.
- An additional ‘active’ radiochemistry laboratory for radium analysis.
- Additional sample receipt areas, digestion laboratories and archiving areas.

In addition to new laboratory facilities and fume cupboards we have also invested in new equipment:

- Two new ‘Catalytic Pyrolyser™ 6-tube’ combustion furnaces for tritium and carbon-14 determination.
- A new Quantulus bringing our total number of Quantulus instruments to four.
- Gamma Spectrometry auto sample changers, enabling more ‘short’ counts to be achieved overnight and at weekends, thereby increasing capacity.



The NIRAS Philosophy!

NIRAS have now been serving clients in the environmental and decommissioning industries for five years. Since its conception in 1999 our strategy has been to grow the business based on our good reputation. To achieve this we have three guiding principles:

- **Delivery on Promised Analysis Turnaround Times.** As a commercial organisation we know how important it is to get results on time to project managers. We have a record second to none for delivery.
- **Quality Results from Quality People and Procedures.** We believe we have the best team in the UK backed up by a robust quality system and procedures to produce reliable results that our clients can have confidence in.

- **Value for money.** We offer competitive prices and because we employ experienced people we can advise on the most cost effective analysis approach to clients projects.

With continued client support our aim is to be **'The premier supplier in the UK of radiochemical analysis to the decommissioning and environmental monitoring industry'**



Sample receipt

Christmas Opening Times

The NIRAS laboratory will close at lunchtime on Christmas Eve and re-open on Tuesday 4th January.

No samples will be accepted into the laboratory during the Christmas holiday.

Portable Gamma Spectrometry Service

We offer a complete on-site portable gamma spectrometry measurement and assay service. It is based on portable 40% Hyperpure Germanium detectors with Digidart portable MCA and data acquisition modules. This technique is able to provide solutions to a wide range of waste characterisation problems.

The system measures natural and man-made gamma-emitting radionuclides in items such as 200 litre waste drums or contaminated plant items or pipework. Calibration is based on nationally traceable reference sources for straightforward counting arrangements through to sophisticated mathematical techniques, enabling the measurement and assay of activity in virtually any shape or form. All work is covered by our BS EN ISO 9001: 2000 certification.

We have long-standing experience in using this technique to assay radioactive materials and radioactively contaminated items on site for many clients including UKAEA and BNFL. This technique can be used to significantly reduce the cost of waste characterisation surveys and analysis. It can also give clients and regulators increased confidence in sentencing waste, to reduce disposal costs.



Portable gamma spectrometry

The Growing NIRAS Team

In addition to 'bricks and mortar' we have also recruited new staff into the team. Welcome to Andy Blease, Patrick Da-Silva, Jenny Wright, Matt Thom, Lorraine Bradshaw and Sheila Smith.

As always in the NIRAS Newsletter we focus on three of our staff to demonstrate the wide variety of experience and skills we have within the team.



The NIRAS Team

Sandra Duberry

Sandra joined NIRAS in 2002 from Solvay Interlox where she was a laboratory analyst with a wide range of experience in analytical chemistry techniques. At NIRAS Sandra is a multi-tasking analyst, her skills include technetium-99 analysis, sample preparation and sample management/archiving. She is also trained as a gamma spectrometry operator. A professional and dedicated member of the team, Sandra also has good knowledge of Health and Safety, COSHH and UKAS quality procedures within a laboratory environment.



Keith Bradshaw

Keith joined NIRAS in 1999 from Lancaster University. He has been involved with the laboratory measurement of environmental radioactivity since 1984. During his career Keith has authored over 20 technical papers including DOE research papers. Keith is the NIRAS laboratory's Technical Manager responsible for method development and

technical mentor to the staff, he also manages decommissioning and environmental radiochemical analysis projects, including statutory monitoring contracts for clients.

Sarah Padley

Sarah joined NIRAS in 2001 and is the Senior Scientist responsible for uranium analysis, one of our main analysis techniques. Sarah is also the NIRAS laboratory deputy Safety, Health and Environmental Manager. Sarah has been working in radiochemistry for the past 4 years, is a Manchester University graduate and during her time at university had an industrial placement with BNFL at Springfields. In addition to laboratory analysis Sarah has also been involved in radioactive waste consultancy projects.



New Web Site and Emails

NIRAS now has its own more user friendly website which can be viewed at www.niras.co.uk

Our email addresses have also changed to a new format: name.surname@niras.co.uk.



Meet us at...

We will be at the following conferences with an exhibition stand in 2005, so come along and meet us in person:

- Safegrounds Conference 10th March 2005 (London)
- IWO Water Contamination Conference 13th-15th June 2004 (Manchester)
- The 10th International Conference on Environmental Remediation & Radioactive

Competition

2005. Good luck!!

Here is your chance to win a portable DVD player. Simply send your contact details by email to competition@niras.co.uk

or

Fax / send your business card for the attention of Sonia Jarvis.

The draw will be held on 31st January



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HSE Approved Dosimetry Service

We operate an efficient and personal Approved Dosimetry Service, providing dosimetry and dose record keeping for all NNC radiation workers and over 600 individuals from a wide range of external clients.

HSE approval, under the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999, covers the measurement of external whole body and skin radiation doses from X-ray, beta and gamma radiation plus dose record keeping.

These services are provided for a single, very competitive, fixed annual fee. This fee covers the whole service, with no hidden extras for emergency issue of dosimeters, etc.

Please contact the Dosimetry Office directly at Birchwood :

Tel: 01925 675338

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