PRESS RELEASE – November 2007

Chelsea Technologies Group aids fight for homeland security with launch of On-Site Rapid Diagnostic Screening System

Chelsea Technologies Group Ltd

55 Central Avenue
West Molesey
Surrey KT8 2QZ
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)20 8481 9000
Fax: +44 (0)20 8941 9319
sales@chelsea.co.uk
www.chelsea.co.uk

Medica, Dusseldorf, The Chelsea Technologies Group (CTG) announces the development of an 'on-site rapid diagnostics screening system' designed to detect and identify micro-organisms following a terrorist attack.

Over recent years CTG has developed a novel, low-cost, optical system for reading low-density protein microarrays, work that was done in partnership with Microtest Matrices Ltd. (MtM), (a spin out from Imperial College, London). With additional government sponsorship under the Home Office's CBRN programme, this advance has enabled the CTG, MtM and The Health Inspection Agency (HPA) to develop a fully automated portable microarray processing platform for on-site diagnosis, a step which had hitherto been inhibited by the sophistication and expense of the optical imaging techniques available for reading high density DNA arrays, which until now has been the main driver for the development of this format.

The portable platform is designed to be rapidly deployed to any location in the event of a suspected terrorist attack allowing investigators to take samples from the immediate area of the incident – the walls, floor, people etc and screen them quickly to determine whether potentially harmful substances had been used in the attack.

John Attridge, Life Sciences Director, Chelsea Technologies Group, said: "The proposed platform is designed to be rapidly deployed in the event of unexplained clusters of acute illness or fatality, to screen for the presence of a comprehensive panel of micro-organisms that might be associated with a deliberate terrorist attack, allowing these to be ruled out as a potential threat early in any investigation. The microarray format that the team has developed can readily be adapted for other applications, including the detection of potentially harmful chemicals in water supplies or for multianalyte detection in the medical diagnostics market."

A prototype of the platform has been produced and trials are planned for early 2008. To learn more about this development, please visit Chelsea Technologies on Stand 1F14, Medica 2007, Dusseldorf.

- ENDS -

CTG is developing a robust portable assay processing system for the rapid detection of infectious agents that can be deployed in the event of unexplained clusters of acute illness/fatality or a potential terrorist incident.

Registration No: 00832429
Registered at the above address

Notes to editors

Chelsea Technologies Group Ltd is based in Surrey. Its team of highly experienced scientists and engineers are engaged in design, development, production engineering, process control and marketing of a wide range of individual sensors and distributed instrument systems. The Group's activities are spread over two areas - Marine Systems (Oceanographic, Acoustic & Sonar Systems) and Life Science and its extensive technical and market knowledge make it ideally placed to offer consultancy services.

For more information please contact: Dr John Attridge or Ellen Keegan, Chelsea Technologies Group
Tel: +44 (0)20 8481 9019 **E-Mail**: ekeegan@chelsea.co.uk **Web**: www.chelsea.co.uk