

MBRAUN Press Releases

"CLEANROOM" MAGAZINE 01.2004

New Facility For Cytotoxic Compound Research



MBRAUN Gloveboxes



MBRAUN Glovebox System

Source "Cleanroom" Magazine 01.2004 /
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In response to market demand for increasingly potent drugs and solid-form characterization research, Avantium Life Sciences has invested in a dedicated facility, capable of screening Class IV compounds for salt formation and polymorphic behavior.

The new resource, located at Avantium's Amsterdam laboratories and HQ, will complement Avantium's solid-state chemistry capabilities, enabling the discovery and identification of polymorphs and crystal salt forms for cytotoxic compounds. The primary components of the new facility comprise a state-of-the-art glove box to contain all solids-handling and enhanced sample holders to transfer the solids to the high throughput analytical techniques such as powder X-ray diffraction and Raman spectroscopy. Although all solids handling in Avantium's solid-state group takes place in gloveboxes, this new capability is equipped with additional filter systems and pressure control. Since most auxiliary equipment is integrated within the glove box, all solids handling and crystallization experiments can be executed under full containment conditions.

The infrastructure supporting the new facility includes a regime of strict safety and decontamination procedures and a rigorous staff-training program.

Erwin Blomsma, Vice President of Avantium Life Sciences, comments: 'We have invested in a world-class facility, now capable of screening cytotoxic compounds as well. Globally, there are very few contract research companies that can handle such levels of potency and we already have many projects from major pharmaceutical companies lined up to utilize the new unit.'

Avantium Technologies is an innovation-based company providing rational high throughput product and process R&D solutions to the chemicals and life science industries. Its unique integrated hardware and software platform provides intrinsically scalable solid-state characterization and chemical development thus allowing rapid and reliable scale-up to pilot plant and production. Avantium collaborates with, among others, Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Akzo Nobel Chemicals, Shell, Eastman Chemicals and W.R. Grace. The company has its head offices and laboratory in Amsterdam (Avantium Technologies B.V.) and employs a satellite laboratory within Delft University to collaborate with the Dutch Universities in a cutting-edge discovery program.