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Itronics Completes Defense Department Contract by Supplying Vacuum Water Recovery Units for "Beneficial Use Photochemical and Water Recycling"

RENO, Nev.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 20, 2002--Itronics Inc. (ITRO - news) today reported that its subsidiary, Itronics Metallurgical, Inc., recently completed a Department of Defense contract for five vacuum water recovery units. This sale will be reported in the third quarter results and will more than double the photochemical services revenues compared to the third quarter of 2001. "This contract could be a significant first step in providing our services to the entire U.S. military," said Dr. John Whitney, Itronics President.

"The supplied vacuum water recovery units are second generation photochemical vacuum distillation machines capable of concentrating used photochemical solutions by 80 to 95 percent," said Dr. Whitney. "The recovered water is pure and can be reused."

With a manufacturing agreement in place to produce the distillation units, Itronics Metallurgical now offers complete "Beneficial Use Photochemical and Water Recycling." This technology is completely operational on a commercial scale, including the manufacture of a line of field proven, earth friendly, liquid fertilizer products now being marketed under the GOLD'n GRO trademark.

This proprietary technology makes it possible to completely recycle used liquid photochemicals and the water they contain, making it unnecessary to continue to discharge this chemical waste into the nation's sewer systems. The Department of Defense military bases utilizing Itronics' "Beneficial Use Photochemical and Water Recycling" program will eliminate all photochemical discharges to sewers while 100 percent of the photochemical concentrate will be converted into GOLD'n GRO liquid fertilizer products. The recovered pure water will be available for reuse, which is a very attractive alternative.

After the vacuum water recovery units are installed and operational, Itronics Metallurgical will begin to receive and process the photochemical concentrates produced by these machines. "This program is a pilot project, which may lead to providing our 'Beneficial Use Photochemical and Water Recycling' services to all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces throughout the country. It is being developed by the Department of Defense in consultation with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency," Dr. Whitney said.

Itronics Metallurgical sells its earth friendly GOLD'n GRO liquid fertilizer, which can also be used for lawns and houseplants, and its popular Silver Nevada Miner bars, a souvenir of the Silver State, through its "e-store" shopping cart catalog at the Company's web site <http://www.itronics.com>.

Itronics, through its subsidiary, Itronics Metallurgical, Inc., is the only company in the world with the technology to extract more than 99 percent of the silver and virtually all the other toxic heavy metals from photowaste and to convert the resulting liquid into environmentally beneficial, chelated, multinutrient liquid fertilizer products sold under the trademark GOLD'n GRO.

Itronics Inc. is one of Nevada's leading process technology development companies and a world leader in photochemical recycling. Headquartered in Reno, Nevada, it specializes in recycling technology development, photobyproduct recycling, silver refining, and technical services for the mining and recycling industries. Dr. John Whitney, Itronics President, was selected as Nevada's Inventor of the Year for 2000 and is a member of the Inventor's Hall of Fame at the University of Nevada, Reno. Itronics was one of five finalists for the 2001 Kirkpatrick Chemical Engineering Award, the most prestigious award in the chemical process industries worldwide.

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(The statements in this news release that are not historical facts or statements of current status are forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that involve risk and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially.)