

[On Tri-Star letterhead]

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New Cold Laser™ Creates Indelible ID for Medical Products

El Segundo, Calif., August 30, 2002 . . . Tri-Star Technologies announces the launch of its new Cold Laser™ Marking System which provides permanent, tamper-proof marking for pharmaceutical products and medical device components.

The M-100L-M series of Cold Lasers can safely and easily mark tablets or capsules – even after they have been blister-packaged. This system provides permanent identification without damaging the product or the packaging.

The system may also be used to indelibly mark plastics, resins or glass in tubing, valves, connectors and other components of medical devices. The Cold Laser marks either the surface or the interior of these products without damaging very thin or thermally sensitive substrates.

According to Tri-Star president Alex Kerner, the Cold Laser offers drug packagers added security by eliminating the possibility of tampering with packaged drugs. “Since the tablet or capsule is marked after being sealed in blister packs, substitutions are not possible,” he said. “Matching I.D. can be marked on the clear blister pack simultaneously with marking the tablet or capsule. Tampering will disturb this perfect alignment and be immediately apparent.”

This approach to identification also offers increased patient safety, Kerner said, by reducing the risk of administration of an incorrect medication. “The Cold Laser can be used to add a bar code to individual tablets/capsules, identifying the prescribed product. Matching that to the code in the hospital’s dispensing system ensures that the patient is being given the correct medication,” he said.

The fully automatic, computer-controlled, high speed UV laser marker is simple to operate and may be easily integrated with existing equipment. The system is environmentally friendly and is clean room-compatible. It uses no inks that must be FDA-approved or other chemicals or solvents. The high-speed laser offers a faster, more accurate marking method than conventional printing/embossing.

Kerner added that the Cold Laser can help reduce inventory, since it can mark small batches of product quickly, eliminating the need to keep large quantities on hand.

Tri-Star Technologies, a division of the DAH Corporation, has been a leader in automated equipment marking since 1979 and has been active in the medical equipment market with its plasma surface treatment process.

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