

# NORDION STERILIZATION UPDATE



Issue 6: June 2014

## Cobalt Supply and Disposal Update from Scott McIntosh, COO of Nordion

Our customers tell us that reliable, long-term supply and disposal of Cobalt-60 are critical to their business. To that end, we continue to invest in enhancing and diversifying the supply and disposal paths available to the industry.

As you know, on March 28, 2014, we announced that Sterigenics intends to acquire Nordion. Throughout the acquisition process and afterwards, we remain committed to providing the same world-class products and services the radiation processing industry has come to expect. We will provide ongoing communications to our customers on the progress of the acquisition as well as the status of our long-term supply initiatives.

In keeping with our philosophy around managing the entire Cobalt-60 lifecycle, we continue to provide a disposal solution for customers who wish to return Nordion-manufactured C-188s after the end of their useful life.

We also recognize that global Cobalt-60 supply and disposal options are impacted by other players in the market. To have your questions answered on these dynamics, we suggest that you contact the International Irradiation Association for additional information.

## Let's Talk Food



Food irradiation is part of the answer to providing a sustainable, diverse and safe food supply to the world's population. Availability and acceptance of this technology has opened up international export markets and provided opportunity for growth of local and international businesses.

While food irradiation has been around for decades, it's clear from recent growth—especially in phytosanitary treatment—that the industry is at a turning point. In order to build momentum around these exciting changes, we are developing educational resources for your use.

The first of the educational resources includes two videos outlining the process of food irradiation and as an engaging, quick-read eBook of key milestones in the history of food irradiation—from 1905 to today.

Visit the GAMMA TECHNOLOGIES > RESOURCES page at [nordion.com](http://nordion.com) to access these tools.

## Upcoming Events

### August 3-7

ASTM 8<sup>th</sup> International Workshop in Oxford, England

### August 17-21

17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) in Montreal, Quebec

### September 16-20

AATB 2014 Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA

## Security Bulletin: Windows® XP



If your operation continues to rely on the Windows XP operating system (OS), please continue reading to learn if you may be at an increased risk.

On April 8, 2014, Microsoft ended its extended support for Windows XP. This means Microsoft no longer puts out security updates for XP. Here are answers to frequently asked questions.

### **What does this mean to my operation?**

Answer: Those computers which are connected to the internet and continue to run the XP are more susceptible to new viruses or malware. If your system is infected with a virus or malware from which it isn't protected, this could result in operation down time and/or loss of your and your customers' product data.

### **Will I reduce my risk if I disconnect my computer from the internet when Nordion support isn't required?**

Answer: Your risk of infection by viruses will be reduced but not eliminated because viruses can spread via USB and other external drives being connected to your PC.

### **What can I do to protect my operation?**

Answer: One solution can be to upgrade your PC to run the Windows 7 OS. Note that extended support for Windows 7 ends in 2020. The Windows upgrade will allow you to upgrade your control system platform as well.

### **How will a Control System upgrade help?**

Answer: Your new Control System will be based on the GuardLogix Safety PLC. Once on this platform, many upgrades become possible, improving safety and the control you have over your operation. The redundant processor provides a backup for the Irradiator Timing system (ITS), queue event and product tracking data, which also reduces the irradiator's dependence on the PC.

### **If I upgrade my Control System, will I have to upgrade my PC again?**

Answer: Moving to a virtualized solution using applications, such as VMware®, enables you to do this on your terms. The upgrade will be hardware independent as the virtualized machine will stay the same.

### **Have another question?**

Answer: Contact us to discuss whether a PC upgrade is the right solution for you or whether your operation should consider a Control System upgrade. We welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can make the upgrade seamless with your business and according to your budget and schedule.

Contact Nordion at [service@nordion.com](mailto:service@nordion.com) or visit us at [nordion.com](http://nordion.com)

Contact Microsoft: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-CA/windows/end-support-help>

Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft. GuardLogix is a trademark of Allen-Bradley. VMware is a registered trademark of VMware.

## Did You Know? 50 Years of C-188



This year marks an important milestone for us. 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the Nordion C-188 Cobalt-60 source. Since the manufacture of the first source by AECL in 1964, the C-188 source has become the industry standard for design and quality for Cobalt-60 sources.

And here's another interesting fact. In the past 50 years, Nordion has shipped close to 100,000 sources or 1 billion curies of Cobalt-60 to irradiators in over 40 countries around the world.

Today Nordion continues manufacturing C-188 Cobalt-60 sources with the same passion we had 50 years ago. For this reason, you and the global health care system continue to rely on gamma technology to sterilize more than 40% of the world's medical devices (Source: Canadian Nuclear Association).

## Presentation on New Processes for Sterilization of Emerging Product



Sterilization process monitoring and control is key to product safety in the healthcare industry. Due to new and emerging products that are biological in nature or made of materials that are sensitive to the standard forms of terminal sterilization, more developed tools are required to bring together a wide range of expertise to solve common problems in the sterilization industry.

Our Polymer Materials Specialist, Fatima Hasanain, recently spoke on this topic at the 2014 PDA Aseptic Processing-Sterilization Conference. Fatima's presentation highlighted some of the specialty irradiations being delivered today including human tissue, pharmaceuticals and more, and how those results are being applied to the advancement of gamma technology.

Visit the GAMMA TECHNOLOGIES > RESOURCES page at [nordion.com](http://nordion.com) to download Fatima's presentation, "Advancing the Science of Gamma Irradiation – Continuous Improvements in Radiation Sterilization."

Fatima also published an article on this topic, which you can access from the PDA Journal website (fee associated with the download.)



Contact

[sterilization@nordion.com](mailto:sterilization@nordion.com)

