

PREPARED MEDIA HELPS EXPRESS MICROBIOLOGY TO GROW

Express Microbiology Limited, Linlithgow, UK, is a young, growing company, offering a complete microbiological testing service to customers in the food, pharmaceutical and hotel/leisure industries. Since its launch in 2003, the company's turnover has doubled, test throughput has more than doubled - and yet they are operating in the same size premises and with the same number of staff. Company Director, Dr Jennifer Newton, attributes this increased capacity largely to their switch to using Oxoid Prepared Media in 2004, commenting, "We would never have managed in the same space or with the same number of staff if we were still making our own media."

A natural step

With a long history of using Oxoid products, Dr Newton felt confident about the change.

"It was a natural step to trust that Oxoid would deliver the same high quality in prepared media as they had in their dehydrated products," she explained.

"At first, we were a little concerned about how we would cope with fluctuations in demand if nearly all of our media was pre-made. But Oxoid has made the transition very straightforward for us, with email ordering and weekly deliveries.

"Now we have improved cost control as every plate purchased is accounted for, which means less wastage."

Importance of quality

As Express Microbiology strives to deliver a service of the highest quality to its customers, they look for the same commitment from their suppliers - realising that this gives them a competitive edge.

"The Oxoid Prepared Media we use is manufactured by G & M Procter Ltd (an Oxoid company), which has achieved ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation for the performance testing of their products. The key



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benefit from this is that we can have greater assurance of the validity of the results that they report, and, following appropriate validation, we have been able to reflect this in our own testing regimes. This has enabled us to reduce our workload in checking the media and gives us security that our results are not in jeopardy because of poor quality," continued Dr Newton. "It is also an advantage when we are selling our services to customers."

When the company first changed to Oxoid Prepared Media, they had to invest time in validating the new system, but they definitely feel that it was worth the effort. Now they have to perform fewer QC checks and, compared to their previous hand-poured system, they feel that the overall quality, uniformity, wrapping and storage of plates has been greatly improved.

Better use of expertise

Express Microbiology prides itself in the quality of its employees - a team of highly qualified microbiologists. They are delighted, therefore, to free staff from the time-consuming and laborious task of media preparation.

"Most importantly," concludes Dr Newton, "our change to Oxoid Prepared Media means that we are able to direct the expertise of our microbiologists towards sample testing, where their talents are best utilised."

For more information about Oxoid Prepared Media, please speak to your local Oxoid representative, visit www.oxid.com or tick 3 on the reply paid card.

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