

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Remote Methane Leak Detector (RMLD™) Wins R&D 100 Award

July 21, 2005 The **Remote Methane Leak Detector (RMLD™)** has won an R&D 100 award from R&D Magazine. This award recognizes the RMLD as one of the 100 most technologically significant products introduced to the marketplace over the past year. The RMLD was developed in partnership by **Heath Consultants Incorporated, Physical Sciences Inc. (PSI), NYSEARCH/NGA** and **Public Service Electric and Gas (PSEG) of New Jersey**.

The RMLD is an eye-safe laser-based natural gas sensor used to locate leaks in natural gas transmission and distribution pipelines. The RMLD can quickly and efficiently detect leaks up to one hundred feet away allowing remote detection of hard-to-reach areas and difficult terrains.



Remote detection allows the user to safely survey areas that may be difficult to reach, such as busy roadways, yards with large dogs, locked gates, pipes suspended under a bridge and other hard to access places.

Available gas detectors that deploy technologies such as flame ionization must be positioned within the leak plume to detect the presence of methane. The RMLD does not have to be within the gas plume because it uses laser technology known as Tunable Diode Laser Absorption Spectroscopy. When the laser passes through a gas plume, the methane absorbs a portion of the light, which the RMLD then detects. This quantum leap in technology makes it possible to detect methane leaks along the sight line without always having to walk the full length of the service line.

When the infra-red laser beam is transmitted from the launch port some of the laser light is reflected by a normal background such as brick, concrete, grass, etc., to the detector. This reflected light is collected and converted to an electrical signal that carries the information needed to deduce the methane concentration. This signal is processed so that methane concentrations can be reported in parts per million meter or PPM-M. The laser has a maximum distance of up to 100 feet and is selective to methane only. It will not false alarm on other hydrocarbons.

PSI, NYSEARCH, and Heath plan to embark on development work to expand the applications of the RMLD configuration for mobile use. In a cooperative development project funded in part by the DoE/NETL, PSI is currently researching a high-powered version of RMLD that is targeted at detecting gas leaks from airborne platforms flying as high as 10,000 feet, with a vision of extending the range to 80,000 feet where futuristic aerial surveillance vehicles will hover for months at a time.

About Heath

For over 70 years, Heath Consultants Incorporated has been the leading service provider and manufacturer to offer a wide range of products and services to the various utility markets. For the

RMLD, Heath has been involved in the development of this product as a partner to the research sponsors and contractor since the early stages of the program. Heath is the manufacturer and exclusive distributor for a wide range of gas detection, pipe and cable locating and odorant analysis equipment. Over the years, Heath has demonstrated complete reliability in reducing leakage and maximizing pipeline integrity. Heath services include walking and mobile leak surveys, gas leak pinpointing, odor complaint response and a number of support services. Whether working in the field or as an equipment supplier, Heath has the experience and expertise to provide our customers confidence in their operational safety, saving time and money.

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