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# Discovery Channel's *Dirty Jobs* uses Microanalytics<sup>™</sup> AromaTrax® technology to get to the bottom of diaper odors

**Round Rock, TX** (November 29, 2007) —Microanalytics<sup>TM</sup>, a subsidiary of MOCON (NASDAQ: MOCO), was featured recently on the Discovery Channel's *Dirty Jobs* program. In the segment that premiered on November 27<sup>th</sup>, host Mike Rowe visited the facility to understand how analytical chemistry can help contain or neutralize the stench of aging, dirty diapers.

Microanalytics<sup>™</sup> AromaTrax<sup>®</sup> GCMS-Olfactometry Systems, combined with the human nose, provides an accurate and efficient way to characterize and identify critical odors. Identifying the compounds that are causing malodors speeds the development of effective processing strategies for their removal. Typically, the company is contracted to identify the source of offending odors in a variety of products and situations and offers solutions to contain or neutralized them.

Taking a light-hearted approach to the topic, Rowe first spent time at a local daycare center collecting "the samples" before taking them to Microanalytics for analysis.

Microanalytics Founder Don Wright gave Rowe a tour of the labs and put him in front of the "sniff port" so that he could experience first hand how the odor identification process works.

First, two dirty diapers were wrapped tightly and then placed into a glass jar, which was sealed via a metal screw-on closure. The closure had a pinhole at the top into which a needle was inserted down into the vapor space above the diapers. The needle tip was exposed for 15 minutes to collect the sample. The sample was then transported to the AromaTrax® unit and heated to release individual compounds. A sniff port was used to detect and identify the malodorous compounds.

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Four compounds—dimethyl sulfite, dimethyl trisulfide, methyl mercaptan and pcresol—were identified as the principle odor causing components in the dirty diapers that were tested. To see if the malodor could be duplicated, liquid versions of each of the four compounds were combined in a separate container. Rowe visibly recoiled after having sniffed the new "cocktail," supporting the findings.

"This is relatively complex technology," says Wright. "In addition to the technology that has gone into the instrumentation, we also have developed 'bookkeeping' software which allows analysts to react quickly to the compound presented by giving them a way to log their findings directly onto the computer screen. Speed is critical since analysts often only have a second or two to respond to one compound before the next one presents itself at the sniff port."

Although, the AromaTrax® unit is capable of identifying thousands of compounds, typically only a small number are most responsible for causing the odor issues. It is the specific identification of those problem compounds that can assist manufacturers in creating improvement products for their containment.

"In this example, our goal is to help manufacturers optimize the film that is used to make garbage bags so that it forms a greater barrier to the specific odorants that are emitted by aged dirty diapers," Wright says.

In addition to selling AromaTrax<sup>®</sup> units, Microanalytics<sup>™</sup> also provides in-house testing and consulting services for companies who need rapid resolution of an odor quality problem. This is a valuable alternative for companies who do not have the luxury of ramping up internal capabilities (both labor and equipment investment) to solve an odor problem that has suddenly presented itself.

Microanalytics<sup>™</sup> was founded in 1992 and has a proven track record in solving quality control issues for a variety of products due to flavors, aromas and odors. The company is dedicated to the continued improvement of practical sensory analysis. For more information: <u>www.mdgc.com</u>.

MOCON is a leading provider of instrumentation and consulting and laboratory services to medical, pharmaceutical, food and other industries worldwide. For more information: <u>www.mocon.com</u>.

This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements include but are not limited to: uncertainties relating to competition and technological change, setbacks in product development program, slower-than-anticipated customer acceptance of new products, dependence on certain key industries, risk associated with the Company's acquisition strategy and international operations, and other factors set forth in the Company's filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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