

# NEW CIS LABORATORY

Exciting developments for CIS, Simon Gee travelled to Shropshire to find out more

The Cattle Information Service (CIS), is committed to improving the standards of service, accuracy and value throughout all dairy herd management information practices. Fittingly so, by the time this *Journal* reaches you, CIS will have opened its new state-of-the-art laboratory in Telford, Shropshire.

Called Speir House, the location is ideal to handle milk and animal health testing for dairy farmers distributed throughout England, Scotland and Wales. The building is named after the founder of milk recording in the UK, Scottish farmer John Speir who set up the service now run as CIS in 1903.

Three Foss milk analysers have been installed to produce vital information on milk composites in support of the current CIS data systems and, importantly, proven techniques will be available to give early warning of nutritional abnormalities and unseen diseases such as BVD, IBR and Johnes to aid in their elimination.

The investment in the new laboratory is a joint initiative between CIS and Holstein UK. Sue Cope, Executive Director of CIS, says: "We have made the decision to establish our own laboratory in order to continue to improve our customers' herd health."

"As a company owned by farmers and run for farmers, it is also our belief that the technology available in 2012 allows us to offer direct financial benefits to our clients," Sue continues.

There has been a phased changeover from existing contractors during the year and the laboratory will be fully operational by the end of August. The latest generation of Foss milk analysers and Raudzsus automation systems have already been installed – see further details in the supplier information opposite. The site offers potential to expand these services and to integrate future innovations within the industry.

There are plans to hold an official opening ceremony later in the year once the initial development phase has been completed.



### **Neometrix Ltd**

Neometrix is a supplier of consultancy and technical solutions to the dairy industry and has been working with CIS on the development of the new laboratory.

The past 25 years have seen huge improvements in the performance of milk analysers such as those supplied by Foss, the latest of which is installed in the CIS milk laboratory.

In order to gain the benefits of these improvements, it is important that the analysers are presented with accurately identified representative samples. Capitol Vial, Raudszus Electronic and Neometrix have worked together over the past 10 years to provide complete 'farm to analyser' solutions using customised sample pots, sample racks and sample handling automation to ensure that accurately identified samples arrive at the laboratory and representative samples are presented to the analysers.

In order to maintain the performance of milk analysers they must be regularly calibrated using reference material in accordance with International IDF and ISO Standards as used by CIS and supplied by Neometrix.

CIS also participates in International Ring trials, where the performance of the laboratory is regularly benchmarked against other leading milk testing laboratories throughout the world, all of which ensures constant focus on accurate performance and ensures the farmer continues to receive accurate results for the correct sample.

**Stewart Stockdale, Neometrix Ltd**

### **Foss**

Foss are proud to have been part of the establishment of the new facility in Telford and welcome the CIS into the global family of around 3,500 Milk Testing installations in over 80 countries who have also invested in Foss Milk analytical systems.

Like CIS, these other businesses have selected Foss as their business partner to enable them to benefit from over 50 years expertise in this technical field and the strong R&D commitment from the Foss family who oversee an investment of around \$25 million every year into new solution development.

Foss Dairy solutions now analyse over 85% of the world's milk supply for nutritional components, bacterial levels, animal health indicators and help protect the food chain and consumers by screening against adulterants.

Foss will supply CIS with the systems needed for today's requirements and also those essential for the future, as the demands will change. The success of the installation at Telford has been down to great relationships built up between Foss, the CIS team and Raudszus GMBH.

It's clear that the business under Sue Cope's leadership will provide an efficient, lean, cost effective service to the growing client base, something which Foss are keen to support and enhance by bringing new leading edge capabilities to CIS quickly and effectively.

Good luck CIS and thank you for the business.

**Andy Carr, Industry Sales Manager – Dairy - UK & Ireland, Foss**

### **Raudszus Electronic**

Raudszus Electronic is responsible for the automated control of the new CIS laboratory. To optimize the necessary processes, the milk-analysers are equipped with automatic handling units, called analyser islands, which handle the necessary steps to make milk analysis fully automated and traceable.

The operator loads racks into a pre-buffer, where the milk vials are pre-warmed and then transferred into the main warming area. The system uses 'warm-air warming', which is proven to be reliable and keeps the equipment free of water.

Once the vials have been heated to a temperature of about 42°C, the racks are shifted out of the warm-air system and transported onto the handling unit, which first mixes the racks with the vials 10 times allowing the ingredients in the milk to be mixed homogeneously.

After mixing the racks are transported into the channel for analysing, by first opening the vials automatically. The total time saving for mixing and opening each rack saves about 10 to 15 seconds per rack and assures identical handling of each rack – guaranteeing better quality results.

The racks then pass on to the analyser, where each vial is remixed by the analyser's stirrer and is then aspirated by the milk-analyser to analyse the milk for fat, protein, lactose, urea and many other parameters.

At the same time, the barcode of the vial is read automatically and transferred to the analyser assuring proper and error-free ID together with the analyser results. This is also the basis for the traceability of the results within the TGL system.

After analysis, the vials are closed again automatically and are shifted out to a plate, from where they are taken away by the operator. This process frees up 12 minutes of the operator's time, which allows them to concentrate on running three analyser islands simultaneously.

**Michaela Raudszus, Weidenschlager and Gerhard Raudszus - Raudszus Electronic**

### **CAPITOL Europe**

CAPITOL Europe has become a leader in developing solutions in a very streamlined distribution network, including the farmer, dairies and laboratories. Their vision of dairy vial manufacturing has been acquired through over 45 years of actively participating in the milk sampling chain. CAPITOL Europe has been very proud to work with CIS on a new laboratory management and automation solution.

Together with CIS, today, CAPITOL Europe is offering the highest level of performance, security and sustainability to the industry. The vials provided to CIS are specific for quality testing of milk in manual sampling, include a user-friendly hinged lid, are liquid tight and are supplied with a unique barcode number to ensure complete identification of milk from each cow. CAPITOL Europe has also produced transport boxes and vial racks to meet CIS's requirements.

CIS is well situated to provide a service that meets or exceeds the strictest industry requirements of vial performance and safety, all while maintaining a keen eye on the economics of routine testing.

CAPITOL prides itself in offering CIS and its affiliated farmers cost effective solutions to secure traceability, reduce labour and minimize the use of expensive equipment.

**Robert Abrams, Chairman of the Board - President and Founder of CAPITOL Europe**