

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 March 2018

A Rapid Listeria identification solution introduced in South Africa

In reaction to the Listeria outbreak in South Africa and the consequent processed food crisis, it was announced today that a rapid Listeria testing service has been introduced to assist affected parties in their decision-making process.

The service is offered by Pietermaritzburg based SciCorp Laboratories (Pty) Ltd with its focus on scientific and laboratory testing needs of agricultural and related food industries. The service is also supported by a SciCorp preferred partnership agreement with Eurofins Dr Specht, an international life sciences company in collaboration with Eurofins GeneScan Technologies.

Dr Tertia Erasmus of SciCorp said: "The Listeria testing service provides results within approximately 24 hours in case of negative results. This compares to about 96 hours for traditional testing.

"*Listeria monocytogenes* is the most important human pathogenic species of the genus *Listeria*, however, other *Listeria* species can also – albeit rarely – trigger diseases. Therefore both, the detection of *Listeria* spp. and the exclusion of *L. monocytogenes*, are essential for the quality assurance of food," Dr Erasmus said.

SciCorp make use of a *Listeria* Multiplex kit that offers a multiplex real-time PCR assay for parallel detection of both, *L. spp.* and *L. monocytogenes*, in one reaction. The test kit is certified by AOAC-Research Institute under the PTMSM Program (Cert. no. 061701) and certified NF Validation by AFNOR Certification (Cert. no. EGS 38/05-03/17).

Dr Tertia Erasmus
Email: tertia@scicorplab.com
Tel: +27 033 386 1560