Yunnan Baiyao Group Co. Ltd
— Leading Medical Enterprise in Yunnan Province

The group has recorded impressive growth in recent years. For instance in 1996, value of sales exceeded 100 million yuan (US$12.1 million). Its foreign exchange earning for the same year was US$0.5 million. In recent years, the group enhanced its production capacity by importing production equipment from Germany and Japan. It also imported high pressure gas chromatography and liquid chromatography equipment from the US and Japan.

Yunnan Baiyao Group Co. Ltd. (雲南白藥集団股份有限公司) is the biggest Chinese medical enterprise in Yunnan Province (雲南省). It is also one of the 50 key government owned enterprises, and the first enterprise in Yunnan to have its ‘A’ stocks available to the public. The enterprise has been authorized to engage in the import and export trade. It started from Yunnan Baiyao Factory, which was set up in 1971. At present it has 650 employees, including 176 technicians in various fields.

The group produces 80 types of product, including eight different types of drugs, besides tinctures, plaster, and aerosol. It continues to develop new products all the time. Its registered trademark ‘Yunfeng’ won an award at the provincial level. Besides this, its Yunnan Baiyao under the ‘Yunfeng’ (雲豐) brand has won the National Gold Medal three times. It is listed in the National List for First Grade Protective Chinese Medicine, Famous Brands of Chinese Medicine, and 1st Batch Famous Brand Products of Yunnan Province. It is used to treat chronic gastriitis, hemorrhage of gastric duodenal ulcers, sore throat and bruises, among others.

The group’s ‘gongxuening’ (宮血寧) capsule is also listed in 1st Batch Famous Brand Products of Yunnan Province. It is made by extracting active elements from a special herb which can be found in Yunnan Province. It is a traditional Chinese medicine discovered by the group. It can be used to treat intra-uterine hemorrhage and infection, and bleeding due to pelvic infection, among others.

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Saf-T-Pak Inc. of Edmonton, Canada, is a producer of certified packaging for the safe air or ground shipment of infectious substances and biological specimens. These packages are designed to prevent leakage from the specimen and harm to anyone nearby in the event of an incident. Although this may be a relatively simple concept, it took the company years of research, and input from both government and industry bodies, before the products finally went on the market in the late 1980s.

By 1988, the world's first Infectious Substance Shipper was available and being sold in Canada and the United States. A short time later, the 'STP 100' became a common fixture in some European laboratories. As the months went by, new packages were designed, along with accessories and refurbishment materials. Development continues at this time on two new products, with a third now in the planning stages.

Saf-T-Pak also markets a training program so that lab technicians, shippers and researchers are able to properly prepare samples for national or international travel. The training, which has expanded to many cities across North America and beyond, has been widely acclaimed by government and industry officials. It is offered publicly and privately and will be available in 1998 to those working in western Europe.

Regarding the training program, company president Art Rutledge said, "Training is the most important single pro-active step that can be taken to ensure public safety. To my knowledge, every incident, and certainly every serious incident, involving dangerous goods has involved an untrained person as a cause."

With the global increase in drug research and development, demand has grown for Saf-T-Pak's packaging. Thousands of infectious or non-infectious specimens are shipped by ground or air each day, and Saf-T-Pak is a popular choice of packaging for laboratories in many countries.

The United States is the largest market for Saf-T-Pak products. However, plans are underway to obtain more dealers in western Europe. Recently, the company expanded into Japan, and the packaging is being distributed throughout Asia by two different companies, Dangerous Goods Management (Singapore Pte. Ltd.) of Singapore (Tel. 65 2686328) and World Courier KK in Tokyo (Tel. 01181 3350892).

Further information, regulatory and product information can be found on Saf-T-Pak's website, at www.saftpak.com. Inquiries can be sent via the website or through e-mail at: saftpak@compuserve.com.

For product and dealer inquiries about Saf-T-Pak, call Garry Melnyk.

Questions about regulations and training should be directed to Eric Cook.
The Anqi Biotechnology Group Ltd grew into a giant in the biotechnology industry in Yichang, Hubei Province during the last ten years. Recently, it formed the Hubei Anqi Biotechnology Corporation, which was listed in September 1997. The Hubei Anqi Biotechnology Corporation is a state-owned enterprise restructured from Yichang East Production Base, the largest yeast production plant in the province. It was established after three months of preparation, which involved changing the management system and assimilating the Yichang Biotechnology Research and Development Center, Xiling Brewery, Yichang Brewery and Yichang Milk Production Ltd. to the listed corporation. Product development was the main impetus behind the merger. To allow a stable transition after the merger, the corporation invited the managers and workers of the component enterprises to visit the yeast production base to understand the image of Anqi.

Dow AgroSciences, one of the largest research-based agricultural companies, will be investing around US$4 million initially. SemiBioSys, which was formed in 1994, specializes in the production of plant-based recombinant protein products or ‘molecular farming.’ In fact, the company holds the exclusive license for the use of molecular farming technology, which was developed by Dr. Maurice Moloney from the University of Calgary. Dr. Moloney will be a speaker at the Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference ‘98 (ABIC ‘98) which will be held from June 9-12 this year in Saskatoon, Canada (for further details please refer to the Calendar of Events section).

The purpose was to introduce new ideas and new management methods so that they might adapt to the new set-up.

Gensel Biotechnologies Inc. of Toronto has developed a form of technology that allows cattle and pig breeders to choose the sex of their livestock even prior to conception. The technology, the result of 12 years of research and development at the University of Guelph, has been tested in laboratory trials with over 93% accuracy.

Dow AgroSciences (previously known as DowElanco), and SemiBioSys Genetic Inc. have formed a multi-million dollar business alliance to commercialize technological breakthroughs in recombinant plants. The business alliance includes identifying new markets, customers and technologies to produce valuable proteins from plants. The valuable products identified are expected to be commercially available in 1999, yielding about US$100 million in annual sales within the next decade.

Gensel will complete development of the technology for commercial use over the next three years, with full commercialization targeted for 2001. According to Dr. Jeremy Gawen, CEO of Gensel, uncertainty about the sex of livestock is estimated to cost breeders in North America and Western Europe US$2 billion each year.

The Hubei Anqi Biotechnology Corporation

The corporation did not change the managers of the annexed enterprises.

Gensel Develops Sex-Determining Technology

Dow AgroSciences and SemBioSys form Alliance