

Sybron reworks distribution

Salem, Va. — Sybron Biochemicals, manufacturer of Green-Release, has signed a distribution agreement with Milliken Turf Products. Sybron acquired the microbial technology in February 1999 from Jacksonville, Fla.-based Green-Release BioTech, Inc.

"Sybron took on Green-Release because we believe this technology is the future of turf maintenance," said Ted Melnik, vice president of Sybron Biochemicals. "Our new arrangement with Milliken will simply accelerate that process."

The worldwide distribution capabilities of Milliken will enable Sybron to focus more re-

sources on its core strengths of research, development and manufacturing.

"Sybron's next generation of technology represents a step forward in the continued evolution of microbial technology. The company's new patent-pending technology will provide a more reliable product with faster more consistent bio-performance," said Melnik.

Lesco nets third quarter profits

CLEVELAND — Lesco, Inc. has reported a third-quarter net income of \$5.8 million for the three months ended Sept. 30, a 131 percent improvement.

The company attributed the improved profitability in part to improved sales mix, the phased reduction of certain lower-margin products, the benefits of planned warehouse consolidation, the elimination of Lesco Service Center opening expenses, improved cost controls and a reduced loss at Commercial Turf Products, Ltd.

Metallic Power

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Engineers at Metallic Power replaced the six lead-acid batteries originally installed in the utility cart with a single fuel cell. The cart was driven on a surface with level changes and speed bumps where its performance data compared to that collected earlier from the lead-acid, battery-operated cart. Multiple-drive and refuel tests were performed over a several-day period at Metallic Power's facilities in Carlsbad, Calif.

Using a prototype recycling unit, the zinc/air fuel cell was both emptied of its reaction product, zinc oxide, and refueled with fresh zinc fuel in about ten minutes. Product improvements next year should cut the refuel time to three to five minutes. The production version of the recycling unit will incorporate a single, easy-to-handle coaxial nozzle/hose configuration similar to today's gasoline refueling nozzles.

The Metallic Power development team continues to optimize the design of the zinc/air fuel cell system and refine its marketing strategy. The next major phase is a test of approximately 50 customer-evaluation units in the fall of 2000, with beta units to follow in late 2001. Metallic Power anticipates introduction of the fuel cell for commercial use in 2002.

In other Metallic Power news, the company has announced a partnership with Milwaukee-based engine manufacturer Briggs & Stratton Corp. to investigate and develop future power sources using Metallic Power's proprietary zinc/air fuel cell technology.

Briggs & Stratton is the world's largest producer of air-cooled gasoline engines for outdoor power equipment.

"Working with Metallic Power will give Briggs & Stratton the opportunity to evaluate a new portable power source," says Vince Shiely, vice president and general manager of electrical products for Briggs & Stratton.

Briggs & Stratton has contributed funds for development of a prototype fuel cell. Financial terms were not disclosed. Prototype testing of the fuel cell is expected to begin in December 2000. ↑



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