

## LEATHERHEAD AWARDED TWIN FOOD & BEVERAGE ACCREDITATIONS

16 APRIL 2018: Leatherhead Food Research, a Science Group company, has been awarded UKAS accreditation for the evaluation of challenge testing and has added microwave ovens to its UKAS-accredited cooking instruction techniques.

As a provider of science, technology and consultancy services to global food and beverage brands, the new achievements further underline Leatherhead's consistently high standards.

Challenge testing involves inoculating a product with a specified microorganism, such as *Listeria monocytogenes*, to observe how it behaves during production, storage and handling by the consumer. It is the most effective way to determine product safety and establish shelf life. Leatherhead is now UKAS accredited for the evaluation of challenge testing including inoculation of specified organisms, specified storage and recovery of specific organisms.

"Challenge testing is a powerful tool providing scientific evidence of food safety," says Chris Wells, MD at Leatherhead. "Developing safe and nutritious products is the overarching goal shared by all of our members and clients. UKAS assessments are known for their rigour, so this accreditation gives added assurance that our offering meets the highest standards."

In 2017, Leatherhead became the first and only provider of UKAS accredited cooking instructions techniques. The latest addition means that we are now UKAS accredited for testing in microwave ovens, gas and electric thermal ovens, electric fan ovens, gas and electric hobs, gas and electric grills and deep fat fryers.

"Last year, we surveyed 1,300 UK consumers who own a microwave and found that 81% use a microwave daily or every few days – largely for heating ready meals or leftovers," Wells continues. "With such prevalent use of microwaves, it's important that we provide clients with independent verification of our techniques. The UKAS accreditation shows that our methods are robust and scientifically sound."

Leatherhead's UKAS testing laboratory number is 9365.

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## **About Leatherhead Food Research**

Leatherhead Food Research provides expertise and support to the global food and drinks sector with practical solutions that cover all stages of a product's life cycle from consumer insight, ingredient innovation and sensory testing to food safety consultancy and global regulatory advice. Leatherhead operates a membership programme which represents a who's who of the global food and drinks industry. Supporting all members and clients, large or small, Leatherhead provides consultancy and advice, as well as training, market news, published reports and bespoke projects. Alongside member support and project work, our world-renowned experts deliver cutting-edge research in areas that drive long-term commercial benefit for the food and drinks industry.

Leatherhead Food Research is the trading name of Leatherhead Research Limited, a Science Group (AIM:SAG) company. Science Group provides independent advisory and leading-edge product development services focused on the Group's in-depth science and technology capability. It has around 400 employees across 15 European and North American offices and two dedicated, UK-based R&D innovation centres. Other Science Group companies include Oakland Innovation, OTM Consulting, Sagentia and TSG Consulting.

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