



SA germ-zapping robots pass test in disinfecting coronavirus

Officials with San Antonio-based Xenex Disinfection Services said testing at Texas Biomedical Research Institute has proven its LightStrike pulsed xenon robots can deactivate the SARS-Cov-2 coronavirus from contaminated surfaces, adding a new weapon to combat Covid-19.

The germ-zapping robots represent the only ultraviolet disinfection technology capable of such deactivation against the novel coronavirus, Xenex CEO Morris Miller said.

“The independent testing took place over the last the last several weeks at Texas Biomed under the watchful eye of Dr. Larry Schlesinger, their CEO,” Miller told me.

Xenex validated the efficacy of the LightStrike disinfection robot against live SARS-CoV-2 at Texas Biomed’s biosafety level 4 containment laboratory. Testing showed that Xenex robots can deactivate SARS-Cov-2 from surfaces in two minutes.

Texas Biomed also tested the effectiveness of Xenex technology in disinfecting N95 respiratory masks, as medical facilities have been forced to reuse such personal protective equipment due to stretched supplies. It took five minutes, Morris said, for the robots to achieve a 99.99% level of disinfection rate with the masks.

Xenex robots use a xenon lamp to generate bursts of high intensity, full germicidal spectrum UVC light that’s more intense than sunlight. Different pathogens are susceptible to such light at different wavelengths.

“Covid-19 caused the world to stop in its tracks. As we discuss and plan for re-entry, disinfection of public spaces is a major priority to reduce the risk of disease transmission,” said Dr. Mark Stibich, chief scientific officer for and co-founder of Xenex. “Putting an effective infection prevention infrastructure in place now is essential.”

Texas Biomed’s Schlesinger said the Covid-19 pandemic has “unearthed distinct scientific challenges, one of which is the ability to quickly engage in partnerships for the sake of moving technologies.”

Source: <https://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2020/05/01/sa-germ-zapping-robots-pass-test-in-disinfecting.html>

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