Dräger supports crackdown on drug driving

Blyth – With new drug drive legislation now in effect, international safety solutions provider, Dräger, is supporting police forces around the country as they crackdown on drug driving.

The company became the first to receive Home Office approval for its DrugTest 5000 equipment to be used in a custodial setting back in 2013 – and now adds the roadside testing of cocaine and cannabis, to its portfolio of Home Office type approved equipment.

The fully automated Dräger DrugTest 5000, is being used by police forces around the UK, to test for cannabis and cocaine at the roadside – similar to the way drivers are breathalysed for alcohol.

With its many decades of expertise in the fields of breath alcohol and drug screening, the latest approval comes almost 50 years after Dräger became the first company in the UK to get type approval on a breathalyser – the Alcotest 80 tube in 1967.

The DrugTest 5000 underwent rigorous testing at the Home Office's centre for applied science and technology (CAST), to confirm its accuracy. The approval of this mobile device means officers will no longer have to wait until they are at the police station to test drivers they suspect of being on drugs. Saliva samples can be analysed immediately for precise results on the spot.

Under the new legislation, individuals caught driving under the influence of drugs will face harsher penalties including up to six months' imprisonment, a £5000 fine and 12 months’ disqualification.

Mark Burrup, Dräger Regional Segment Manager, said: “As new legislation is in place this year, the DrugTest 5000 has an important role to play in reducing the number of drug-drivers on the road and the impact they have on the safety of others. This is a major step forward in supporting the police in their crackdown to bring drug drive criminals to justice.”
The Dräger DrugTest 5000 is already widely used by police forces and wider industry around the country and the rest of the world, with around 2,000 sold in the UK and approximately 100,000 worldwide.

Whilst operating in real time, the Dräger DrugTest 5000 also has extensive data management capabilities, allowing for up to 400 individual measurements to be stored at any one time. An integral part of the equipment, this offers longer term solutions for users, with track-able data supporting target areas for enforcement.

Mark continued: “We have vast experience working with police forces and other organisations across the UK and around the world, and the DrugTest 5000 has been designed to support their long term aims and ultimately reduce crime – making our roads safer for everyone who uses them.

“We will continue to work with forces and organisations to ensure our solutions deliver real value for money, both today and in the future.”

To find out more about the Dräger DrugTest, visit http://www.draeger.com/sites/en_uk/Pages/Alcohol-and-Drug-Detection/Draeger-DrugTest-5000.aspx

To find out more about Dräger in the UK visit www.draeger.com

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