

UPDATE ON REPLACEMENT LINEAR ACCELERATOR AT FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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The linear accelerator previously installed at the Florida Department of Agriculture irradiation facility failed to meet all specifications and was removed under a settlement with GE Medical Systems Europe. All accelerator components were sent to Iowa State for spare parts.

A partnership agreement was signed with Radiation Dynamics, Inc. to provide a replacement accelerator to be paid partly from revenue from contract irradiation processing.

The accelerator was produced by Varian Oncology Systems in Palo Alto, California. It has energy of 5.5 MeV and power of 1.4 kW. The scan horn and control systems were produced by Radiation Dynamics of Long Island, NY. The system was assembled in NY, tested, unassembled, shipped to Florida, and reassembled.

Research on the use of irradiation as a replacement for methyl bromide will continue as will irradiation of Caribbean fruit flies for sterile insect control programs and biological control programs. The facility is available for commercial processing and research.

RDI has contacted customers in various industries needing radiation processing and the revenue from irradiation processing fees will be shared by Radiation Dynamics and Florida Department of Agriculture.