



Steve Laffin

DOE Commercializes Hot-Cell Facility: Follow-up Response

We at MAC Isotopes (MACI) certainly appreciate the article about our company which appeared in the November issue of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* (1996;37:21N–24N). I would, however, like to expound about the merits of MACI as well as correct several misunderstandings.

MACI is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Management Analysis Company, Golden, CO. Management Analysis Company was established in 1975 and is an employee-owned company. It currently has revenues of over \$65 million and has 500 employees in 22 offices around the United States. MACI was recently awarded a contract for \$200 million for technical assistance and remediation support to DOE's Grand Junction, CO Project Office. MACI is not a newcomer to the nuclear field, having been awarded numerous contracts over the years for environmental consulting services, project management at nuclear power plants, plant operations and maintenance, and Quality Assurance ISO-9000 assessments and program development. Its customer list of over 400 organizations include some of the largest corporations in the world, public agencies, scientific organizations, municipalities and utility companies. Thus, MACI is backed by an established company which has an excellent world-wide reputation for quality and performance.

The people who have made the switch from Lockheed-Martin Idaho Technologies Company to MACI bring with them many years of experience. They have all made personal commitments to ensure the success of MACI. They all understand the importance of on-time shipments and have dedicated themselves to excel in this area. The reference to the fact that MACI must hire union labor only applies to outside labor and does not apply to employees of MACI.

MACI does not manufacture brachytherapy sources at the present time. MACI is in the business of manufacturing and packaging radioactive nuclides and supplying them as bulk material to the manufacturers of medical and industrial radioactive sources. Although some of this material includes ¹⁹²Ir, which is frequently used for brachytherapy, our current customers do not package their material for this end use. It is not MACI's intention to supply end-users with final products unless they are part of a research program. The price of \$2.85 per curie for ¹⁹²Ir, referred to in the article, is for the pellets manufactured by MACI for use by weld radiographers and not for brachytherapy sources. Currently, MACI supplies eleven companies with all or part of their bulk radiochemical requirements, and similar to our stated iridium price, provides all isotopes at very competitive market pricing.

I believe the concerns about the negative impact of commercialization on research, mentioned in the November article, are unfounded. The DOE office of Isotope Production and Distribution (IP&D) has never been in the business of making research grants to the private sector. Instead, IP&D has typ-

ically earmarked some of its limited funding to carry out limited research at its DOE production sites. The commercialization by MACI will save the DOE an estimated \$2 million per year and, therefore, makes additional funding available for these research efforts. In addition, MACI will support research that could have the opportunity to create new and expanded markets for the products MACI will or could supply. In light of the financial strength of MACI, discussed in the previous paragraph, the net effect upon the medical and research community should be very positive.

The table provided in the November article listed most of the isotopes currently in production by the DOE but did not differentiate or include all of the isotopes currently supplied, or planned for production, by MACI. Currently, MACI is the only United States manufacturer of ¹⁵³Gd, which is used in gamma imaging cameras for attenuation correction. Attenuation correction is one of the largest growth areas in nuclear medicine today for source manufacturers and MACI can supply the total U.S. demand.

The following table lists our current products, as well as those products under development.

Products Currently Supplied	Products in Development
Cobalt-58	Phosphorus-32
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Nickel-63	Calcium-45
Gadolinium-153	Scandium-46
Iridium-192	Iron-55
Tellurium-123m	
Barium-133	
Holmium-166m	

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