



**INTERSPIRO**



**NEWS RELEASE**

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Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, USA  
Lidingö, Stockholm, Sweden

***For immediate distribution***

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**Ocenco Inc. Acquires Interspiro AB**

**Pleasant Prairie, WI, USA – February 2, 2004.** J. Patrick Droppleman, President of Ocenco Inc. of Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, USA, today announced the acquisition of Interspiro AB of Sweden and its subsidiaries. The new Ocenco-Interspiro group now ranks among the world's largest respiratory protection companies and will operate eleven facilities in nine countries on four continents.

"This is a winning combination for everyone involved," said Droppleman. "Our employees, customers and suppliers will all benefit from the strengths of the combined companies."

In describing the acquisition of Interspiro Droppleman said we couldn't have found a more perfect match. "Both companies have established reputations for innovation in respiratory protection and have proven track records of developing new products that compliment, rather than compete with each other."

"Events over the past two years have increased worldwide demand for respiratory protection equipment to protect first responders in emergency situations," said Droppleman. "We now have the comprehensive product line and resources to meet the needs of our global customers."

Ocenco was founded in 1970 and is the world's leading supplier of escape breathing apparatus to the international military, maritime and mining markets. Interspiro, founded in 1945, is known worldwide for breathing apparatus used by the military, municipal fire fighters and professional underwater divers. Ocenco also manufactures explosion proof and intrinsically safe lighting systems for the underground mining industry and provides respiratory therapy equipment to the US and South African markets under the Erie Medical trademark.

For more information the Ocenco – Interspiro group invites you to visit their websites at [www.ocenco.com](http://www.ocenco.com) , at [www.eriemedical.com](http://www.eriemedical.com) and at [www.interspiro.com](http://www.interspiro.com).

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