

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LaMOTTE COMPANY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS**

**(Chestertown, MD)** - The LaMotte Company is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019. The company began producing water analysis equipment in 1919 in downtown Baltimore, Maryland. Their initial products were for testing the chemistry within water, blood and soil. There was a growing demand for domestically produced pH analysis equipment since indicators were being produced primarily in Germany. So, Frank L. LaMotte left his position at DuPont to start his own business.

By 1925 he had produced the first Chlorine and pH combination test kit specifically for testing pool water. The primary buyers at the time were health officials. By 1928 LaMotte began producing test papers for chlorine which were mainly for general sanitation tests. The next year, in 1929, renowned explorer Admiral Richard E. Byrd used a LaMotte pH test kit to measure samples of sea water and ice during his expedition to the South Pole. The kit was returned and remains on display at LaMotte Company headquarters.

In the early 1930s farmers across the nation needed a swift method to measure nutrient levels in their soils. So during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl era, farmers used LaMotte test kits to identify which nutrients were missing from their land and applied fertilizers accordingly. The success of those soil tests along with blood chemistry sets helped the company through lean times enough to expand and move to a new building in Towson, Maryland during 1939.

In 1955 LaMotte Company began providing phenol red pH indicators as markers in the Jonas Salk vaccine to make sure the vaccines were received with full potency after shipping. Then in 1956 the company moved across the Chesapeake Bay to the quiet community of Chestertown, Maryland where it remains today. Many new product lines were added during the mid-1900s for industries such as home drinking water, boiler and cooling towers as well as kits for environmental educators.

By 1968 LaMotte had introduced the first Free Available Chlorine test tablet in the U.S. called DPD. A few years later Frank LaMotte retired and made son, Charles LaMotte, the president of LaMotte Company in 1971. Over the years some 14 LaMotte family members have worked for the business which is still managed today by grandsons David LaMotte (president) and Richard LaMotte (VP of Sales & Marketing). Rich DeMoss was hired in 2000 to direct their efforts in the

growing pool and spa industry.

Since its inception, the company has focused its efforts on simplifying water test methods to eliminate reliance on complex laboratory methods. They began with the first U.S. made pH test kits and kept expanding their offerings. In 1975 they introduced electronic colorimeters for on-site analytical use and in 1983 the first all plastic pool Octa-Slide comparator system.

In 1987 a significant addition to the pool industry was their WaterLink® computerized water analysis system featuring a colorimeter directly tied to software that greatly sped up the in-store water testing experience for users and consumers. The product was improved in 1996 through the use of Unit Dose Vials (UDVs) that cut testing time in half. Then, in 2012, the all new Spin Water Lab technology finally automated comprehensive water analysis by placing 10 tests on a simple 3-inch disk anyone could use. For years customers asked for a system where they could simply inject water into a device and get all their results—finally it was a reality.

Today LaMotte Company produces simple instant dip and read test strips along with fully automated testing devices like the Spin Touch cloud-linked colorimeter. What started with two chemists in a small office on West Saratoga Street in downtown Baltimore in 1919 has grown to a staff of over 200, largely in part to our many enduring customers in the pool and spa industry.