



Hygiene Set for Alma Pro Automatic Feeder: UV-C Disinfection of Feeding Teat and Boiler Water

EuroTier 2021: Urban GmbH wins Innovation Award Silver Medal

- *Alma Pro HygieneSet^{UV-C}: Teat and boiler water are disinfected automatically*
- *High efficacy is microbiologically proven*
- *UV-C technology minimises the risk of infection chains and improves calf health*

Wüstring, December 2020. Many dairy operations use automatic feeders for calf rearing, which allow the calves to feed around the clock, considerably reducing the workload for farmers. However, automatic feeders are often criticised for the part they play in transmitting pathogenic germs from one animal to another so that diseases spread rapidly.

With the **Alma Pro HygieneSet^{UV-C}**, **Urban GmbH & Co KG** presents a novel UV-C-based solution for improving hygiene at the Urban Alma Pro automatic feeder. This innovation developed at the family-owned company based in Wüstring, Lower Saxony (Germany), has won a silver medal at the **EuroTier 2021 Innovation Award**.

UV-C irradiation technology has been used successfully for decades in the food industry, in hospitals and in laboratories for disinfection purposes. UV-C radiation acts directly on the genetic material of an organism and interrupts DNA replication and transcription, immediately destroying cells.

The Alma Pro HygieneSet^{UV-C} consists of a UV-C unit, which automatically disinfects the teat after a calf has finished drinking, and a UV-C irradiation unit, which reliably destroys all germs in the boiler water.

The automatic UV-C teat disinfection unit disinfects both the teat and the inside of the teat housing. Two UV-C lamps are switched on as soon as a calf has finished drinking and leaves the radiation area. UV-C radiation immediately destroys the germs on the teat. Tests by an independent institute proved the effectiveness of teat disinfection: after only 11 seconds of irradiation, more than 90% of the germs originally present on the teat had been destroyed.

Older water pipes may be a further source of poor hygiene in calf rearing as they often exhibit a high microbial load. Consequently, the water used to prepare the milk feed is severely contaminated with germs. Independent random testing detected considerable contamination of the drinking water on many farms, some of these germs being pathogenic in nature.



Press Release

The boiler unit of the Alma Pro HygieneSet^{UV-C} removes all germs present in the water and on the inner rim of the boiler. Independent tests demonstrated that the boiler water was completely free of germs after UV-C treatment with the Alma Pro HygieneSet^{UV-C}.

Urban's new Alma Pro HygieneSet^{UV-C} offers farmers a fast, highly effective, chemical-free, environmentally friendly, and efficient solution for the disinfection of feeding teats and boiler water.

The benefits of this solution convinced the jury of the 2021 EuroTier Innovation Award competition and Urban GmbH has been awarded a silver medal for this innovation.

A press kit containing images and further press material information about the product can be found at <https://eurotier.urbanonline.de>.

You may also have a look at our product video at <https://hygieneset.urban-feeder.com>.

About Urban GmbH & Co. KG:

Urban GmbH & Co. KG was founded in 1984. Just three years later, the company brought the first computer-controlled automatic calf feeder to market. Committed to sustainable livestock rearing, the company is still located in the town of Wüstring in Lower Saxony (Germany) where it develops and produces globally distributed products for calf and lamb rearing and where precise and efficient solutions originate.

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