

## Press Contact

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## eKo Environmental System Enables Plant Disease Prediction

*Crossbow Integrates Disease Model Calculations*

**San Jose, CA – January 27, 2009** – Crossbow Technology’s eKo Wireless Crop Monitoring System now enables users of the breakthrough solution to quickly and easily predict disease conditions surrounding their crops to prevent potential outbreaks. Crossbow Technology, Inc. ([www.xbow.com](http://www.xbow.com)), a leading supplier of wireless sensor technology and inertial MEMS sensors for navigation and control, announced today it has integrated plant disease and agricultural models that will let users calculate Powdery Mildew and Downy Mildew at the touch of a button.

The live data from the eKo Nodes provides growers with better insight into their crop’s health so that informed decisions about when and where to spray pesticides can be made preventing unnecessary chemical usage. The ability to monitor multiple points within the field or vineyard provides a granular level of knowledge regarding the various microclimates and zones. This targeted data of the varying crop conditions in a single location will reduce chemical usage and maximize resources so that users maintain healthier, higher quality crops.

Using models developed by specialists at the University of California, Davis, such as the Powdery Mildew Index and industry leading models such as the Mills Table, growers can view the instant analysis of their live sensor data to determine how leaf wetness, soil moisture, solar radiation, etc. are affecting the health and vigor of their crop. As the susceptibility of the various plant parts change throughout the season, this knowledge is vital to prevent infection.

“Integrating Davis sensors such as solar radiation and temperature with Crossbow’s eKo system provides users with a simple solution to include weather monitoring data in their decisions,” adds Russ Helig, VP of Business Development at Davis Instruments. “By making our sensors part of the eKo network, users can automatically interpret the sensor data collected to monitor diseases such as Downy Mildew without having to create their own algorithms.”

This disease prediction capability is a new feature integrated into the eKo system and eKoView visualization tool. By using a simple internet browser users can access and view their data in real-time from anywhere in the world. The seamless integration of 3<sup>rd</sup> party sensors allow the



eKo system to provides growers with information on how to manage their water resources to enable conservation, collect information regarding temperature and humidity to monitor for frost and calculate Chill Hours or Heat Degree Days while having a micro level of detail about their crop's health.

The relatively low per node cost of the eKo Pro Series compared to other alternatives offers a quick, cost-effective way to deploy more sensors across varying terrain and microclimates within a vineyard to achieve broader monitoring coverage without incurring other monthly or incremental fees. Current eKo system users can easily download and upgrade their system to take advantage of these new disease prediction models at no additional charge.

### **Pricing and Availability**

The eKo Pro Series Starter Kit is priced competitively and is immediately available for purchase from select distributors and online directly at [www.xbow.com](http://www.xbow.com). Sales inquiries may be directed to [eKo.sales@xbow.com](mailto:eKo.sales@xbow.com).

### **About Crossbow Technology**

Founded in 1995, Crossbow Technology, Inc. is the leading end-to-end solutions supplier of wireless sensor networks and inertial sensor systems. Crossbow has shipped over 500,000 sensors to over 1000 customers worldwide, including select Fortune 100 companies, for applications as diverse as industrial automation, building monitoring, home automation, environmental control, defense, security and asset tracking.

Crossbow is leading the revolution in connecting the physical world with the digital world through wireless sensor networks and leading-edge inertial navigation systems. Headquartered in San Jose, California, Crossbow has offices in China and Japan and distributors in 24 countries worldwide. The company is privately held. Its major investors include Cisco Systems, Intel Capital, Morgenthaler Ventures and Paladin Capital. For more information, visit [www.xbow.com](http://www.xbow.com).

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