

# **An opportunity to create jobs and improve people's lives**

Everyone can agree that we are experiencing difficult economic times these days, billions of dollars are being spent grappling with larger economic problems: I propose, there is a common sense approach that can help, not only by producing jobs and economic stimulus today, but also by providing additional health and safety benefits for the general public.

By utilizing a combination of advanced X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzers and sophisticated analytical software, we can quickly obtain accurate and reliable information about the presence of environmental contaminants, such as, lead, cadmium, arsenic, mercury and many other elements, in virtually any object. With new federal money being distributed to the states for home lead testing and abatement as part of the Federal Re-Investment and Recovery Act, an opportunity exists, where by using this technology, we can help people around the United State become more aware of their environment, collect valuable information that can be helpful in areas of health and science, help business comply with federal regulations and put thousands of people to work all across the country.

In the United States, there are millions of homes built prior to 1978; the year that lead based house paint was banned. Each of these homes may have toys, ceramics, jewelry, painted objects, and even walls which could contain lead and other harmful elements. XRF analyzers can quickly identify these heavy metals in a non-destructive manner. In a short home inspection, information can be collected about the structure and surrounding grounds of the property, the toys the children play with, the dishes people eat off of, even the bedding people sleep on. This information can let these households know if any objects or products in their home environment contain even a small amount of a variety of potentially harmful toxins.

If resources are made available to provide for this testing; hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs could be created. Jobs that in the course of one year would provide ten thousand inspection hours potentially impacting the lives of thousands of families. Just ten inspectors could ensure that, as many as, 12,500 children didn't play with lead laden toys or let their parents know that they were sleeping in a room painted with lead paint. Getting this knowledge is powerful; simple changes in behavior can have a tremendous benefit in long-term-health.

For around the cost of a single F22 Raptor, approximately 1500 inspector jobs could be created. In just one year, these 1500 inspectors could provide services to 750,000 families including almost two million children. How many additional jobs would be created in the subfields of lead abatement, disposal and recycling of consumer products, or healthcare fields? Think of all the other jobs that can be created using this technology, helping people and businesses know what is in their environment.

The cost of testing is not high and inspections can be completed quickly. Our economy can benefit greatly from the new jobs which can be created in the environmental safety inspection industry. The knowledge gained from these inspections can provide a win-win situation for everyone (people, businesses & government). And most important is the value added to the quality of life, as the result of these inspections.

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