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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **FUSED SILICA TUBING ENTERS THE LIFE SCIENCE ARENA**

**SGE International** is continually at the forefront of developing analytical and life science product and technology innovations. Since Hewlett Packard first introduced the concept of flexible thin walled fused silica columns, SGE has been perfecting its mass production of high quality GC capillary columns. By combining technology based on the production of optical fiber and with the assistance of a specialized research group, SGE commenced its manufacture of fused silica capillary tubing in early 1979.

Originating on a drawing tower known as "Big Bertha", SGE's fused silica is now transformed into a myriad of products including capillary columns, transfer lines, retention gaps and DNA tubing for a demanding global market. More recently, its inherent properties of chemical inertness, low thermal expansion, high homogeneity and availability in exacting tolerances have been recognized for application in protein and biosensitive analyzes.

By combining high-performance engineering materials and a sophisticated drawing facility that contains four drawing towers, SGE has the capacity to output fused silica to exact internal diameters down to one micron. Such manufacturing capability is reflected in revolutionary product developments including GLT™ (Glass Lined Tubing), PEEKsil™ (Silica Lined PEEK™ tubing, and the manufacture of DNA Electrophoresis Tubing and Hematocrit Tubes.

Fused silica is produced in a similar method to drawing a Pasteur pipette, except to very tight tolerances. The parent tube (preform) is made from high purity, halogen free fused silica glass. Its outer diameter (OD) to inner diameter (ID) ratio is virtually identical to that of the finished capillary tubing.



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For example, for every one-meter length of preform, it's possible to continuously draw over 10,000 meters of capillary tubing.

SGE's fused silica capillary tubing exhibits remarkable flexibility and resistance to fracturing; derived from the semi-conductors grade polyimides resins that are used to coat the glass. These resins offer exceptional scuff resistance, which is important for applications where the capillary tubing is frequently handled.

SGE will be presenting its range of analytical and life science production solutions at Pittcon 2004 between 8 – 11 March 2004.

**About SGE – [www.sge.com](http://www.sge.com)**

SGE designs and manufactures a diverse range of customized solutions in liquid and gas chromatography, MS interface and MS detection, Total Organic Carbon and specialty scientific tubing.

OEM customers and numerous life sciences, industrial, university and government facilities for the purpose of research and development, quality assurance and environmental testing use SGE products around the globe. For further information regarding SGE's capillary GC and other product technologies, please contact your local SGE office.

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Attachment: Fused Silica Drawing Tower