

# CORPORATE BACKGROUNDER



## The Company

Established in 1997, Alcohol Monitoring Systems, Inc. (AMS) manufactures and markets the Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor<sup>®</sup>—or SCRAM<sup>®</sup>. SCRAM is a non-invasive alcohol-detection system that provides 24-hour-a-day alcohol monitoring, as frequently as once every 30 minutes, regardless of the offender's location.

Based in Littleton, Colorado, AMS employs people in both their headquarters facility and in their sales field offices throughout the U.S. A privately-funded company, AMS currently markets and distributes the SCRAM System exclusively within the United States.

## The Science: Transdermal Alcohol Testing

SCRAM is the first alcohol testing system to use Transdermal Analysis to measure for alcohol consumption. When we consume alcohol, ethanol migrates through the skin, unmetabolized, and is excreted in Insensible Perspiration—defined as the constant, unnoticeable excretion of sweat through the skin. The SCRAM System samples that sweat around-the-clock.

## The Technology: Three Integrated Components

### *Component One: The SCRAM Bracelet*

The SCRAM Bracelet, weighing 5.6 ounces, is strapped to a subject's ankle and worn 24 hours a day. The bracelet:

- Contains a sensor pack, which measures ethanol vapor as it migrates through the skin in order to determine if there's been alcohol consumption. These measurements are taken on a pre-determined schedule that is customized by the monitoring agency.
- Incorporates three key tamper detection systems: infrared, temperature and physical attachment systems, that ensure the data is accurate, unobstructed and from the proper subject.
- Includes electronics for system control, as well as collecting, storing and transferring data via an RF link.



Every reading is date- and time-stamped and stored in a memory chip within the SCRAM Bracelet until the data is transmitted, via the SCRAM Modem, to SCRAMNET<sup>™</sup>. In the event of a positive reading or a tamper alarm, the bracelet will immediately begin looking for the modem, and the data will upload as soon as the subject is within range.

### *Component Two: The SCRAM Modem*

The SCRAM Modem is placed in the client's home (or another approved telephone-enabled location). At a pre-scheduled time each day, the subject is required to be within 30 feet of the SCRAM Modem, at which time the bracelet will begin to wirelessly "communicate" with the modem. Using a proprietary, 900MHz radio frequency, the modem will retrieve all available data from the SCRAM Bracelet.





When a data transmission occurs, the SCRAM Modem sends all data to SCRAMNET via a standard telephone line in the home and a secure telephone network. Alcohol readings, tamper alerts and diagnostic data are all communicated to SCRAMNET, and in turn, SCRAMNET uses the SCRAM Modem to download monitoring and reporting schedules to the SCRAM Bracelet.

### ***Component Three: SCRAMNET***

SCRAMNET is a web-based application that is managed and hosted by Alcohol Monitoring Systems. SCRAMNET is accessed via the Internet using standard web browsers, so monitoring personnel can access and control the testing, synchronization and reporting schedules for each individual subject, at any time, from any location. During the course of each day, SCRAMNET will notify the supervising authority of any possible alcohol readings, tamper alerts or equipment malfunctions.

### **Anti-Tamper Features**

SCRAM includes a patented detection system designed to ensure that readings are accurate and from the proper subject. These anti-tamper features prevent subjects from circumventing or distorting readings, and they alert supervising personnel to any obstructions or interferrants, as well as any missed communications between the bracelet and the modem. Once the SCRAM Bracelet is placed securely on a subject's ankle, it cannot be removed without destroying the tamper clip or the strap. If the bracelet is cut or removed in the field, it records a tamper alert.

Placing household products such as plastic wrap, tape, paper, aluminum foil or playing cards between the SCRAM Bracelet and the skin will trigger, record and send a tamper alarm to SCRAMNET. These alerts are categorized by type and severity, enabling agencies to prioritize and better categorize response (i.e., a low battery warning versus a possible drinking violation).

### **Documentation and Evidence**

SCRAM System technology has been upheld in court challenges in nearly every state where SCRAM is currently available. One of the key reasons for this is the comprehensive graphical evidence collected from each individual that is archived in the AMS centralized and controlled data center. When required, this graphical data, showing quantitative data points plotted against date and time, is immediately available for review and action. The SCRAM System can deliver an extensive history of an offender's testing and tamper results or simply a snapshot of a particular event. In addition, all confirmations are subjected to an arduous confirmation process that ensures all results meet the company's stringent requirements for a confirmed violation.

### **Media Contacts**

For more information on SCRAM and Alcohol Monitoring Systems, please contact:

**Kathleen Brown**

303.785.7822

[kbrown@alcoholmonitoring.com](mailto:kbrown@alcoholmonitoring.com)

