



The new eLiquiTech factory in Eldersburg, Maryland

Photos: Tobacco Technology, Inc

E-liquids with a pedigree

After 40 years creating flavours for the tobacco industry, US flavour house Tobacco Technology, Inc. has just opened its own e-liquid factory. Offering everything from R&D to bottling, the facility was designed with future regulations in mind.

With a population of around 30,000, you may not think that very much goes on in the suburbs of Eldersburg, Maryland. Yet, this unincorporated community may soon become the e-liquid hub of the USA - at least if Tobacco Technology (TTI) has anything to do with it.

The family-run flavour company, set up in 1975, has just unveiled a state-of-the-art e-liquid manufacturing facility there under the name eLiquiTech. According to the company, the factory is equipped to provide a complete e-liquid package

from diluting nicotine and developing flavours to cartomizer-, bottle- and tank-filling.

With the US vaping industry in limbo, awaiting regulation by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), no one knows exactly what will be required of e-cigarette and e-liquid manufacturers in terms of standards. TTI has taken a good guess however, and has integrated a number of quality assurance features into both the building itself and its manufacturing processes. The objective: to produce e-liquids with a pedigree.

Quality assurance measures

The 22,000 square foot building has been custom designed to meet and exceed future expected FDA requirements, the company said.

According to George Cassels-Smith, the facility is compliant with Current Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMPs) and is Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) for non biological pharmaceutical products. The building conforms to ISO8:100,000 HEPA HVAC requirements, including clean rooms



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A fully automated e-liquid compounding room uses a custom designed Rockwell automated system (ANSI/ISA-88) to include clean-in-place (CIP) process systems. Here, the company says, e-liquid batches of between 20 to 1,500 litres can be produced.

In the face of coming industry regulation, the company is determined that eLiquiTech's products have a traceable, high-quality lineage. E-liquids are manufactured here using USP/EP grade propylene glycol and glycerin, TTI said. They are screened for diacetyl or acetyl propionyl, furfural, acetaldehyde and acetoin.

Liquid nicotine manufactured in the dedicated nicotine blending room at eLiquiTech also has a guaranteed pedigree. Manufactured to USP/EP grade, nicotine mixed here can also be made with US sourced leaf if the customer desires.



Further down the production line, eLiquiTech is equipped to process "e-liquids downstream into cartomizers, bottles and tanks as per anticipated GMP requirements, through retail ready packages." Cartomizer filling is auto-

mated using the ITM Genesis machine that can fill more than 150 cartomizers a minute, the company said.

Customers will be offered a quality assurance (QA) guarantee. "All materials are analysed for purity and integrity of product prior to release for manufacturing. Finished products are verified by quality assurance (QA) for acceptance prior to release for shipment," TTI said. Parameters that are part of the check include: acceptable organoleptic performance and specifications including nicotine content via GD/FID/linear regression, specific gravity and refractive index. "Future FDA testing requirements are also anticipated," the company added.

Products made at eLiquiTech leave the facility with full documentation including specification sheets, certification of analysis and safety data sheet: all of which may come in very handy when FDA finalises its regulation.

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