

privately by AIM, Inc., a firm that was created by the individuals who invented the concept before Brookhaven became involved in its practical development.

For a few years, Brookhaven National Laboratory analyzed AIMS results for users of the testing system, processing about 1,000 samples per year. In 1985, the company holding the patent (AIM, Inc.) sold an exclusive license to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) for selling and processing the testing system in applications involving three-story and smaller buildings. This license will expire in 5 years. AIM, Inc., retained rights for applications to larger commercial buildings. NAHB now processes about 8,000 samples per year. Several research organizations - including the Harvard School of Public Health, Princeton, Battelle, and Brookhaven - still process their own samples for internal research purposes.

NAHB wanted to set up their own testing laboratories as a service to the building industry. NAHB membership includes builders, building subcontractors, architects, and building product manufacturers. NAHB found that more time, effort, and money than anticipated was required to set up their testing laboratory. Brookhaven staff offered a good deal of assistance to NAHB and NAHB is still working closely with other laboratories to improve the technique.

5.7.3 Market Penetration

Most users of the technique are researchers at utilities interested in air infiltration and indoor air quality issues. AIMS is seldom used by builders or building inspectors.