

NAVAL PHYSICAL & OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY (NPOL), KOCHI

NPOL-Designed Portable ‘ECONO-WISK’ for Safe Swab Collection

The first unit of portable “**Econo-WISK**” was handed over by Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory representatives to Command Medical officer, Surgeon Commodore Arti Sarin, in the presence of CO, INS Sanjeevani at Southern Naval Command, Kochi on 17th May 2020. A team from the DRDO lab NPOL, and Government medical college (GMC) Ernakulam, have designed an easy to assemble, low cost, portable, light weight and feature rich WISK (Walk In Swab collection Kiosk), christened - ECONO-WISK, that would enable fast and safe swab collections from anywhere in the country.

Earlier, GMC Ernakulam had designed a WISK which was widely appreciated by health workers. NPOL had since collaborated with GMC doctors to extensively improve the design of the WISK for fast and easy assembly - at low cost, for better portability, including more features. Econo-WISK is a very cost-effective and easy-to-transport variant of WISK, which also mitigates ergonomics issues like stress points, limited access and bad postures. The current “ECONO-WISK” can be fitted in bulk on helicopters like the Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) of the Indian Navy and on ambulances, and can therefore be mass transported to any remote location. Built over an easy to assemble one inch square frame of steel on a wooden base with linoleum sheets, the WISK can be setup anywhere within a matter of minutes. It has been designed to have better internal air circulation and has been equipped with electrical power plugs along with glove boxes outside the kiosk and a collection tray for swab vials and comes with its own internal lighting.

NPOL is also working on a high end version of the WISK that is conceived as installations that can be set up in hospitals and other screening locations such as airports and seaports. This advanced WISK is expected to have integrated provisions for sanitization and decontamination, easy non-contact communication facilities between health examiner and patient, internal air conditioning, LCD based information displays and facilities for data logging and archival.



NPOL designed portable Econo- wisk inside Helicopter



NPOL handed over portable Econo- wisk to Indian Navy