

BIOBANKING – THE NEXT LEVEL



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“SMALL STEPS, GIANT LEAPS” PAUL LOMAX, SPT LABTECH

Paul Lomax is a product manager at SPT Labtech. He has over 20 years' experience in the automation of sample processing across a wide range of application areas in the academic, clinical, environmental, biotech and pharmaceutical sectors. Paul joined SPT Labtech in 2015 and is responsible for automated Sample management and processing systems, working closely with customers across a range of applications from drug discovery to biobanking. His responsibility includes a range of technologies from nanoliter pipetting and dispensing through to automated sample storage and novel sample transport systems. SPT Labtech designs, develops and manufactures automated solutions with a goal to accelerate discovery through innovation and collaboration.

ABSTRACT

Planning for the future whilst meeting the needs of today is a common challenge in life. Biobanking is no different and when it comes to sample storage, getting the planning wrong can be an expensive business. Space, equipment and running costs for storage can take a significant portion of a biobank's overall budget. Getting it wrong, either too much or too little can threaten a biobank's sustainability.

Pharmaceutical companies faced similar challenges 20 years ago managing compound libraries and SPT Labtech helped many overcome these challenges by providing modular, interconnectable “comPOUND” -20 storage systems that enable rapid sample cherry picking, easy expansion and integration with downstream automation.

SPT Labtech introduced their first “arktic” -80 small storage system several years ago and last year introduced the arktic XC system which brings the same level of interconnectivity, expansion and integration that has been key to the success of “comPOUND” in drug discovery.

Moving to automation is not simply a binary choice between automation or manual, but a case of considering where automation will make the most difference and help to improve efficiency, sample quality and research output.

Several case studies will show how different approaches suit different settings, including an overview of a recent installation in China of an arktic XC system interconnecting several research groups and the biorepository through a pneumatic sample transport network.

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