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The Solution is the Software

The new language of scientific software

The interface that people use to communicate with and control the computer is the product of a dynamic marketplace that has developed its own language. Software, suites, or solutions are more intuitive and adaptable to multiple interface tasking. It is no surprise that many researchers are expressing the importance the role computers play in managing experimental data. Here are some new solutions for scientists to learn about:

Accelrys provides drug discovery organizations with an easy-to-use modeling and simulation environment. **Discovery Studio 1.7** enables scientists to access everything they need in a single Linux or Windows-based environment. This release features enhanced visualization, protein modeling, simulations and computational chemistry, as well as pharmacophore modeling and scripting capabilities. Jeff Zablocki, Head of Chemistry at CV Therapeutics commented, "Our modeling experts were pleased with the time savings realized by using a single environment to generate conformers, dock poses, and model pharmacophores. They were able to easily deliver graphical results to their counterparts in medicinal chemistry with a notable 'wow' factor."

STARLIMS Corporation announced that it will embed **EMC Documentum technology** to provide integrated content management and collaboration capabilities for scientific, testing and research organizations. The Documentum platform provides a comprehensive solution to capture, manage, share and archive scientific data. Barry Ruditsky, Vice President of Content Management Business Development, EMC Software Group said, "Our new relationship with STARLIMS will enable both companies to deliver best-of-breed content management solutions to meet the specific needs of scientific organizations."

The **Sapphire Advanced Storage and Logistics (ASL)** module, from **LabVantage**, provides location management and storage of any laboratory item, with electronic

signature records for chain of custody and audit trails across multiple storage facilities. It facilitates package shipping and receiving to provide accurate material handling within an organization. **Sapphire ASL** was designed to track laboratory item acquisition, location, and disposition with heightened regulatory compliance, for both short and long storage periods. The solution supports multiple areas of responsibility within an organization for high volume, batch operations that can involve many items and containers at one time.

IQbase 2.5 Image Management System, from **Media Cybernetics**, is an image asset management solution that enables the ability to store, query, and share large numbers of images and related data. The IQbase 2.5 easily shares image data within an organization and with outside partners via a web browser or compare similarities between archived images. Archived images and data may be exported to Adobe PDF, HTML and Microsoft PowerPoint format.

Imaris 5.5, from **Bitplane**, is digital imaging software that reads almost all confocal and wide-field file formats. Imaris 5.5 is designed to preserve and display all aspects of the original image from a few megabytes to hundreds of gigabytes. It speeds up the processing of large images by only loading those parts of the image that are visible to the user on the display screen.

Elsevier MDL released an upgrade to its **Isentris** system for integrating information and software applications into scientists' workflows. **MDL Isentris 2.0** features capabilities that demonstrate performance improvements to pharmaceutical, biotech

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and life science organizations. This software system increases R&D productivity through improved data management, lowered cost of ownership, faster workflow processes and easier information access and reporting.

Viscotek designed its new **OmniSEC 4.2** to maximize the information and efficiency of multiple detector size separation experiments. For low molecular weight polymer samples where the refractive index increment (dn/dc) is not constant, it is now possible to create a calibration function that relates the dn/dc to the molecular weight for a given sample type. OmniSEC 4.2 includes the ability to calculate the molecular weight of a protein sample without knowing the dn/dc or concentration. The new version includes low angle light scattering (LALS) and right angle light scattering (RALS) options for molecular weight determination and automatic determination of dn/dc . This software revision provides audit trail and enhancements to ensure FDA 21CFR part 11 compliance.

Elements V2.3 software, by **Nikon**, provides fast multi-dimensional, image capture and analysis solutions for a broad range of microscopy applications. This software stores all common operations in a centralized location, links spreadsheet analysis to the image view and easily enables data export to HTML, text and Excel formats. With enhanced acquisition controls, the user can scroll through and observe previously captured data without having to pause or stop an experiment.

Olympus introduced its **analySIS Inspector Series**, a new software designed to fully automate and solve specific tasks, such as filter, cast iron, and non metallic inclusion inspection. High resolution enables full inspection of circular filters 47 mm in diameter to be conducted quickly and at resolutions of 0.8 μm . Also designed

as an open system, the Inspector series components can be used with a standard microscope.

Methyl Primer Express Software from **Applied Biosystems** simplifies methylation-specific PCR and bisulfite sequencing by automating the primer design process. The intuitive user interface allows researchers to enter their target DNA sequence and simulate bisulfite conversion for methylated and unmethylated genomic DNA. "With issues such as non-specific primer amplification and mis-priming, designing experiments for methylation-specific PCR and bisulfite sequencing PCR can be laborious and time-consuming," said Manel Esteller Badosa, Ph.D., director of the Cancer Epigenetics Laboratory at the National Cancer Center and co-designer of the software. He adds, "Methyl Primer Express provides a solution to automate the essential steps involved in designing sequence-specific DNA methylation experiments."

KODAK Molecular Imaging (MI) analytical software products provide digital image analysis for life science research and drug discovery applications. MI Software is equipped with a comprehensive set of tools for quantitation, image adjustment, databasing, and reporting. The software improves the quality of image analysis for gels, blots, plates, and small animals, and also includes a web-based application interface to enable users to collaborate, search image databases, and share data and analysis results from any computer on the Internet.

Vertical*i introduces its latest version of the **Vertical*i Application Suite**, which provides an application platform that captures projects, portfolio and partner information. This enables companies to evaluate, compare and select opportunities

and projects; manage partnerships and alliances; and make more informed business decisions in a multi-dimensional environment. Clients may view all opportunities, projects, alliance and partnerships, creating an essential centralized storage facility in a collaborative setting that can be accessed across departmental and geographical boundaries.

The gel documentation system, **BDA live**, from **Biometra**, features software that allows the detection of lanes and bands in seconds. The results of the automatic size and mass calculation can be displayed directly on the gel picture and in an Excel compatible table. BDA live can be integrated as a core set in existing gel documentation systems, or it can be delivered as a complete "plug and play" system with a dedicated darkhood, high-resolution printer and computer.

Companies mentioned in this Product Focus:

Applied Biosystems – www.appliedbiosystems.com
Accelrys Software – www.accelrys.com
Biometra – www.biometra.com
Bitplane AG – www.bitplane.com
Elsevier MDL – www.mdli.com
Eastman Kodak – www.kodak.com/US/en/health/s2/
LabVantage Solutions – www.labvantage.com
Media Cybernetics – www.mediacy.com
Nikon – www.nikonusa.com
Olympus – www.olympus-europa.com
STARLIMS Corporation – www.starlims.com
Vertical*i – www.verticali.com
Viscotek – www.viscotek.com

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