



Case Study - C2

The LIMS-Lab pact!

Do you want accurate and effective tracking and management of medical, scientific or food samples through your lab? If so, your LIMS needs to communicate seamlessly with your lab processes. You need... “a LIMS-lab pact”! Aitken Scientific made it happen for a major pharma client – and it’s a universal system that can work for your lab too.

Our client’s feedback: “We felt that our sample tracking systems were becoming almost unusable because of the amount of re-keying and duplicated effort required to connect and validate outputs from the disparate systems. Aitken Scientific’s communication programme delivered us immediate and dramatic improvements.”

The business challenge

As with all major lab operations, our clients receive large boxes of samples, with each sample potentially requiring multiple tests and some requiring different test systems. The details are entered on the ERP/business system and only loaded into the LIMS when the tests are underway. The results then need to be collated by sample and checked and consolidated for invoicing.

LIMS tracks the samples through the lab system, but required custom-interfacing to pass data to or receive data from other systems in the lab.

For example, Fluidigm’s Topaz Experiment Manager handles micro-titre plates from 96 up to 1536 formats each well holding different samples. Given that level of capacity, there was an enormous amount of manual intervention and re-keying involved to incorporate Topaz outputs into the lab operation.

Any input errors due to re-keying at the base data entry stage naturally compound at later stages, and could have a major impact on business processes down stream. This would have a major effect on regulatory areas too, in terms of the accuracy of sample tracking and subsequent records required for medical or other scientific bodies.

Aitken Scientific took on the task to create the LIMS-Lab interfaces that would eliminate the duplication and additional effort required of the scientists and lab technicians.

Our solution

Aitken Scientific developed the software interface, which extended the LIMS system to create seamless integration, communication and translation between LIMS and Topaz, with no re-keying or manual transcription of data.

This interface enables Topaz to prepare a query on the relevant sample data, translate the query into a format that the LIMS recognises, receive the data back from the LIMS and then convert it back into a format that Topaz recognises. This system is transparent in daily use, so requires no user training once implemented.

Simple, intuitive, accurate and effective... exactly the type of solution Aitken Scientific specialises in delivering.

Major benefits of our solution

- Dramatic improvements in throughput and lab technicians’ time and efficiency.
- Associated enhancements in accuracy and quality of sample results for down stream business processes.
- Significant reductions in manual intervention and manual/duplicated transcription of data, leading to dramatic improvement in lab technician job satisfaction!
- Our solution will connect whichever LIMS you are using with whichever lab management process you have adopted – delivering a customised solution, regardless of the type of source machines.
- Particularly beneficial application for CROs and the food industry where every sample has to be tested for quality standards reporting to regulatory bodies.

**Aitken Scientific – dramatic workflow and throughput improvements – it’s what we do!
Can we improve workflow and throughput in YOUR lab environment?
We should be talking....**

Software development
for science and technology