



FOR RELEASE: Immediately

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AutoGen introduces a precipitation-chemistry system that fully automates whole blood DNA isolation from primary tubes to final DNA storage tubes

AutoGen, a leading provider of nucleic acid extraction equipment, today announced the launch of its most advanced DNA extraction solution to date.

In a single, compact package, **FlexSTAR+** completely automates the DNA extraction process from primary tube sampling to final DNA elution into storage tubes. Users will find that manually scanning bar codes, handling and loading individual blood samples and unloading DNA solutions have all been eliminated, freeing them up to do other tasks and reducing the potential of error.

Among its many features, the new system includes protocols for 1-2 ml, 3-5 ml and 6-10 ml of fresh or frozen whole blood and can draw samples from a variety of primary tube sizes, running up to 30 samples in a batch. It reads and records barcodes on primary tubes, has an internal barcode scanner to verify sample input and DNA output positions, provides liquid level detection for accurate pipetting and delivers its final elution in SBS-type storage tubes of the user's choosing. And because **FlexSTAR+** is completely hands-free, users can load tubes, start the run, and then focus on other tasks rather than being held captive by the process.

FlexSTAR+ features sample tracking and reporting software that verifies work lists from LIMs, creates a map of sample and DNA positions, tracks samples through the extraction process and sends final reports back to LIMs. The software also sends an email or text alert when the run is complete.

Additionally, **FlexStar+** has critical error recovery features that ensure that if there's a power loss or an error while a procedure is in process, users can recover and finish their runs without having to resort to manual intervention.

But it's the chemistry that's the real point of difference.

What truly distinguishes **FlexSTAR+** from other DNA extraction solutions is its chemistry. Unlike many other manufacturers' systems, which rely on magnetic bead technology to isolate the DNA, **FlexSTAR+** features Qiagen's FlexiGene chemistry – robust, reliable precipitation chemistry that produces cleaner, longer-stranded DNA for long-term storage.

Because **FlexSTAR+** begins the DNA extraction process with the collection of the white cell nuclei pellet, it eliminates RNA contamination that can occur with magnetic bead technology and other technologies that produce total nucleic acid instead of pure genomic DNA.

“Biorepositories, genetic treatment and cancer centers and specialty diagnostic labs that currently are using Qiagen's AutoPure solution for DNA extraction will be familiar and comfortable with precipitation

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technology,” said Bob Sullivan, AutoGen President and CEO. “**FlexSTAR+** is a logical step-up for them.

In fact, it’s a superior solution for any lab that wants to generate higher quality, higher yield genomic DNA with less work and errors and far less likelihood of RNA contamination, and that stands to benefit from the superior service for which AutoGen is known.”

About AutoGen

Headquartered in Holliston, MA, within easy reach of Boston’s biotech and research centers, AutoGen is a privately held, value-added supplier of nucleic acid extraction equipment and sample preparation solutions to the life science community. The company’s mission is to provide products of superior quality and value, backed by scientific and technical support that exceeds the requirements of its clients.

AutoGen has a rich history of development experience and technical knowledge in automated nucleic acid extraction systems. This heritage gives the AutoGen team the know-how and skills to support all aspects of its equipment and systems. As a result, clients throughout the United States receive the highest caliber training, maintenance, application and mechanical support. A network of specialized distributors supports AutoGen’s clients in Europe, Canada, Mexico, Middle East and South America.

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