



Leading lab automation. Connection of Panther® systems to an Inpeco track system

Star-shl Laboratory, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Star-shl is a specialised medical diagnostic laboratory, testing over 2 million samples per year. Their vision is to provide clear reliable answers for patients and clinicians.

With the aim to streamline workflow and drive efficiency, Star-shl have now become the first* laboratory in the world to automate their STI molecular testing by connecting three Panther® systems to their Inpeco Track system.

The foundation of Panther® Scalable Solutions, the Panther system provides laboratories around the globe with the capability to consolidate their assay menus on a fully automated system, load samples in any order at any time, eliminate batch constraints and decrease turnaround time.

"We connected (the Panther systems) to automate our workflow. We're a highly automated laboratory with a lot of different disciplines connected to the track and this is the next logical step."

Justin Schellekens, Head of Clinical Chemistry, Star-shl



Connecting multiple Panther systems improves workflow and reduces the impact of everyday challenges within high volume laboratories.

When working with high numbers of samples, automation becomes necessary to ensure the laboratory meets its targets and provides timely, accurate results to clinicians and patients.

Using the track system, samples are loaded and routed to the Panther system via a pick and place robot. Minimal handling by the laboratory staff reduces the chance for human error, driving efficiencies throughout the testing procedure. A barcode scanning system ensures full traceability and removes the need for any manual intervention.

Kelly Mertens, Head of the Molecular Department at Star-shl describes the improvements the lab has seen since the addition of the Panther Systems to the track:

"We're more effective, efficient and have reduced our mistakes."

Niko van Lisdonk, First Analyst within the lab adds:

"The analyst or the operator has more time to work on the quality and control issues within the lab."

The impact is significant because it allows us to continue our work while the machine is running with a minimum of 600 samples without interference of the operator."

Clinicians receive the results faster and costs are reduced

Erik Roelfsema, CEO, Star-shl describes how important the installation is to the laboratory:

“If you want to run a large laboratory you have to connect to a track in order to be able to process your samples quickly. With so many samples you have to automate, manual processing is not an option for the future.

We can process much more samples with the same amount of people. It gives us an efficiency advantage that we stay competitive in the future as well.

It's really contributes to a huge cost saving, roughly between 20-30% per module, depending on the volumes and amount we receive per day.”

Kelly Mertens adds:

“The connection of the Panther® to the track has impacted our turnaround time because we can load in the evening when we're not there so we're now producing results during the night.

In the morning the GP has their results when they start working instead of getting them during the day, the next day even.”



By connecting Panther® systems to a track your laboratory can benefit from:

 Improvements to workflow efficiency

 Cost savings

 Fewer human errors

 Increased throughput

 Consolidation of screening

 Freeing up valuable staff resources and time

To learn more about automating your molecular diagnostic testing on the Panther system, please visit: www.hologic.com

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*First laboratory in the world to connect the Panther system to the Inpeco track system.



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