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# More efficiency in laboratory operation through automation

## New packaging and labeling system for Petri dishes

Amidst the challenges facing medical, chemical and pharmaceutical research, the new Lab PlateMaster Pro from b+b Automation and Control Technology presents itself as a significant evolution. The innovative system offers a smart solution to automate the handling of Petri dishes, increasing speed, precision and quality. From automatic sample labeling to barcode information verification, Lab PlateMaster Pro revolutionizes the entire process.

### The importance of automation in laboratory operations

Not least in the context of the Corona pandemic, the importance of daily work in medical laboratories has become commonplace. For months, these were stretched to the limits of their capacity and in some cases even beyond it by the explosion in demand for testing services. At the same time, the situation in the research sector was no less challenging, with its task of developing a reliable vaccine as quickly as possible.

In many areas of medical, chemical and pharmacological research, working with cultures is one of the central tasks. The localized, controlled propagation of microorganisms forms the basis for a wide variety of analytical and test procedures. The systematic handling of Petri dishes has proven to be a critical process, the efficiency

of which is decisive for the success of entire procedures and is symbolically presented as the eye of the needle. In order to increase the efficiency of these processes,



Figure 1: Overall view Lab PlateMaster Pro



Figure 2: The mechanical lid lifting system for placing the label under (behind) the edge of the lid.

targeted automation is indispensable. With Lab PlateMaster Pro, b+b Automation and Control Technology offers a reliable way to increase speed in the process of providing and labeling Petri dishes and to ensure maximum precision and quality with high flexibility.

### Lab PlateMaster Pro: Increased efficiency through automation

Lab PlateMaster Pro is an assembly and labeling system for Petri dishes with a labeling module for coding the samples and integrated sorting logic. The Lab PlateMaster Pro receives the data required for automated assembly of the required Petri dishes in up to five different variants per work step either from a connected laboratory information and management system (LIMS) or by direct programming. With a high-resolution printing unit and an application unit, the Lab PlateMaster Pro prints and applies razor-sharp labels at a resolution of 600 dpi. Various types of labels and codes are possible, e.g. 1D or 2D barcodes, QR codes, data matrix codes or text labels. In addition, the machine is able to create special labels for specific

applications, such as temperature or sterilization indicators. The labels can be applied either externally or, in conjunction with a mechanical lid lifting system, internally. The printed barcode information is checked in a single step to ensure correct data transmission.

Based on its robust design with a mobile base frame made of aluminum, the powerful system convinces with reliability and a long service life, even with permanently high utilization. At the same time, b+b Automation and Control Technology focuses on optimal user-friendliness. Via a 15.6-inch touch display, the intuitive user interface allows uncomplicated interaction with the system and



Figure 3: The circulating discharge conveyor transports the stacked Petri dishes to the front of the system



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*Alexander Beck, CEO*

control of the marking process. Here, the user can fall back on predefined programs as well as individually adjust all relevant parameters.

The software developed by b+b Automations- und Steuerungstechnik additionally enables remote support via b+b's Quicksupport tool and thus simple and reliable monitoring, maintenance and troubleshooting. Communication and manual programming are carried out via the „Labels Platform 5 Automationcenter“. This ensures bidirectional data exchange in established file formats such as XML, CSV or TXT.

In addition, the Lab PlateMaster Pro allows modular adaptation to specific requirements through additional components, such as a stacking device, on the basis of which the production capacity can be additionally increased.

## Advantages and adaptability of Lab PlateMaster Pro

„With the Lab PlateMaster Pro, we are taking automation in laboratory operations an important step forward,“ explains Alexander Beck, Managing Director of b+b Automations- und Steuerungstechnik GmbH from Oberzent. „It is thus a good example of how our marking systems contribute to sustainable process optimization and thus to the competitiveness of our customers in a wide variety of application areas.“

A detailed impression of the design and functionality of the Lab PlateMaster Pro is provided by a [detailed product video, which can be found on the company's YouTube channel](#). Further information and detailed specifications are available on request from the sales department of b+b Automations- und Steuerungstechnik GmbH.



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