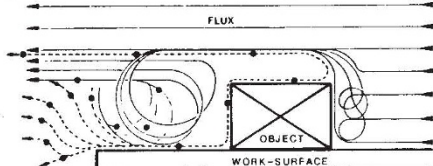


# A glimpse of Bio-Expo

*Below is a sampling of some of the products to be on exhibit at the Bio-Expo conference held on 24–28 March in Paris, France.*

PHARMACIA will be showing off its range of products for biotechnology in its booth at Bio-Expo (Reader Service No. 101). Not the least of Pharmacia's offerings will be the CellPfect Transfection Kit, for optimizing high efficiency **transfection of eukaryotic cells** with DNA. The kit contains three solutions; two optimized buffers for calcium phosphate transfection for stable expression, and one DEAE-Dextran solution for transient expression. The kit is supplied with a detailed protocol for both stable and transient expression procedures, and one kit contains enough reagents for 25–100 transfections, depending upon the method used and size of the Petri dish.

With the **sterile storage boxes** for laminar flow hoods developed by ESI-Flufrance, objects needed for sterile procedures may be kept near at hand, without interfering with the laminar flow and introducing the possibility of contamination (Reader Service No. 102). Instead of



ESI-Flufrance's storage boxes go with the flow.

keeping objects on the work area surface where they can interrupt the air flow, using ESI-Flufrance's side-mounted box allows researchers to keep the work area clear of extra utensils until they are needed. The stainless-steel storage box is equipped with an internal ultraviolet

radiation source, so its contents are kept sterile. The box has a glass door that opens directly inside the work area, at an angle designed so that the pivoting axis of the door is always parallel with the direction of the flow, for minimum flow disturbance. ESI-Flufrance has developed the sterile storage boxes for both horizontal and vertical laminar flow hoods. As an option, a second glass door may be added on one of the outer faces of the storage box to convert it into a sterilization chamber.

With the **solids probe** for mass spectrometry developed by Kratos Analytical, analyses can be performed under precise temperature control (Reader Service No. 103). The £7,000 (UK) probe's tip is composed of stainless steel and has the heater

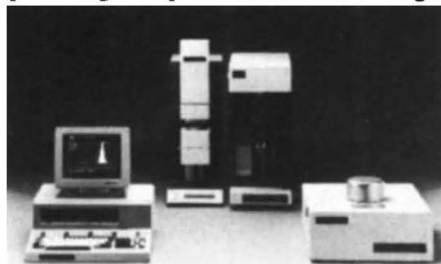


The Kratos Analytical probe and control unit.

connected directly to it, allowing rapid heat transfer from the sample, so the recorded and actual temperatures match exactly. According to Kratos Analytical, the solids probe tip temperature can exceed 800°C, and 600°C can be reached from ambient temperature in approximately one minute. The probe is also heatable in atmosphere without damage, and can be cooled, directly to the tip end, with liquid nitrogen or dry air.

Hewlett-Packard's new **analytical supplies catalogue** is out, and it now contains information on such products as sample preparation supplies, laboratory robot supplies, filters, vials, flow metres, and even a water purification system (Reader Service No. 104). The free 224-page catalogue also outlines HP's more traditional products: gas and liquid chromatography columns, syringes, chemical samples, and supplies for HP's chromatography and mass spectrometry instruments. The catalogue's appendices, including more than 100 capillary and liquid chromatography column applications, chromatographic equations, miscibility tables, conversion tables, and a glossary of chromatographic terms, make it a handy reference for analytical chemists.

Perkin-Elmer has recently introduced a new line of **thermal analysis** systems, the DELTA series (Reader Service No. 105). Presented as a lower-cost option for laboratories with limited budgets or those who are new to thermal analysis, the £18,500–45,000 (UK) systems are based on the Perkin-Elmer 3700 Data Station as instrument controller. According to Perkin-Elmer this system permits configuration of a low-cost thermal analysis system by providing complete control of a single



DELTA: the low-cost alternative for thermal analysis.

thermal analyser module. The library of software available for the DELTA series currently includes programs for instrument control, standard and advanced analyses, and multitasking options that allow the DELTA series to perform simultaneous data collection, analysis and plotting.

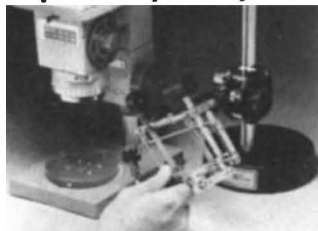
Flow is now distributing Gelaire **laminar air flow benches** and **Airone workstations** (Reader Service No. 106). The horizontal laminar air flow benches have automatic air speed control, and the range of five models offers up to 60 options. The benches are available as either table-top or freestanding models, with stainless steel or formica work surfaces. The vertical laminar air flow benches for tissue culture come in three sizes, and also sport automatic air speed control. The Airone fume containment workstations, also built by Gelaire, feature a wide range of activated carbon filters, making them a flexible system for the control of occupational hazards. The Airone range includes modular bench units and a mobile workstation.

Brownlee Labs, a division of Applied Biosystems, Inc., has a new product bulletin available describing the Brownlee SFC System One for **supercritical fluid chromatography** (SFC) (Reader Service No. 107). The free brochure contains a complete description of System One, plus pointers on when to use SFC, and the suitability of different sample types for analysis by SFC. Illustrative chromatograms are also included. □

*These notes are compiled by Carol Ezzell from information provided by the manufacturers. To obtain further details about these products, use the reader service card bound inside the journal. Prices quoted are sometimes nominal and apply only within the country indicated.*

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