



On November 29th, 2005 the AchemAsia Satellite Symposium 2005 will take place at the New International Expo Centre in Shanghai. This Symposium, which is organized by DECHEMA and the Shanghai Society of Chemistry and Chemical Industry, will be a one-day meeting with no entrance fee. The focal topic of the symposium, Automation Solutions in Biotechnology, will generate considerable benefits for exhibitors at Interkama Asia and at the next AchemAsia in May 2007.

Automation solutions *in biotechnology*

Laboratory automation solutions are now a crucial component of pharmaceutical drug discovery, biotechnology and clinical specimen processing. They not only free scientists from the need to perform repetitive tasks, but have also enabled the development of technologies and analysis that speed up life science and drug research. The entire lab automation industry generated over US\$ 1.2 bn worldwide in 2000 and is growing at a rate of 15% annually. Liquid-handling robots are estimated to make up over 40% of the revenues. The main reasons for automating laboratory processes are to accelerate research and discovery, to eliminate human error, to track large numbers of samples, and to improve sterile conditions.

Research in molecular biology and drug discovery has now reached the point where procedures are being developed which simply cannot be performed manually. What does lab automation technology look like today? What can we learn from our experience in lab automation solutions? The AchemAsia Satellite Symposium will give you an opportunity to learn about the latest developments in this area and to communicate and share ideas across diverse industries and scientific disciplines. The symposium aims to bring together decision-makers and specialists in the very promising field of biotechnology laboratory and process automation. After the event you can visit the "Interkama Asia" exhibition. ■

Scientific Program

- Welcome and Opening (Gerhard Kreysa, President of DECHEMA e.V., Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Zhang Peizhang, Chairman of SSSCI, Shanghai, China)
- The Challenge of Automating Bioprocesses (Norbert Kuschnerus, Senior Vice-President, Bayer Technology Services and President of NAMUR, Leverkusen, Germany)
- Monitoring and Control of Bioprocess based on Treatment of Information – An overview of the Progress and Outlook for Bioprocess Engineering and Technology (Zhang Ciliang, East China University of Science & Technology, Shanghai, China)
- Full Automation of pre-analytical processes in molecular biology with Qiagen's BioRobot Universal System (Wolfgang Leibinger, Qiagen, The Netherlands)
- The Biosynthesis of Stable Isotope ¹⁵N Labeled Amino Acids (Xu Dagang, Shanghai Research Institute of Chemical Industry, Shanghai, China)
- Automation in Drug Discovery (Günter Bauer, Evotec Technologies GmbH, Hamburg, Germany)
- Automation Bioprocess with BBI Systems (Bernd Wilhelm, Sartorius BBI Systems GmbH, Melsungen, Germany)
- Interscale observation and process optimization for guanosine fermentation – A multiscale study on bioreactor optimization (Chu Ju, National Engineering Research Center for biotechnology, Shanghai, China)

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