

Editorial By:
Daniel Sorrell
ABI
(+1) 212-529-4500
Abipressroom.com



FOR RELEASE

Liquid Handling Boot Camp Enables Labs to Maximize the Performance of Their Robots

Automation Trainer and Artel help students recognize and understand all the variables

Westbrook, ME (August X, 2009) – Automated liquid handling equipment is an increasingly essential component of life science laboratories. Used to boost the productivity and repeatability of volume transfers, automated liquid handlers must be optimized to achieve precision and accuracy in liquid delivery. To address this need, Automation Trainer (www.automationtrainer.com) a leading expert in laboratory automation and training, and Artel (www.artel-usa.com), a supplier of liquid handling quality assurance measurement systems, will host a Liquid Handling Boot Camp on October 23, 2009 at the National University Campus in San Diego, CA. Bootcamps are also being hosted at Stanford University, Harvard Medical School, and University of Berlin.

The seminar is a one-day hands-on interactive workshop in which students receive instruction and perform laboratory exercises on a variety of automated liquid handlers. Based on years of practical laboratory experience and teaching hundreds of students, Automation Trainer has developed a comprehensive curriculum for automated liquid handling instruction. Artel provides the ARTEL MVS® Multichannel Verification System which facilitates liquid handler adjustments and optimizations by providing performance data for each volume transfer.

Liquid Handling Boot Camp begins with an instructional, class-room style overview of the theory and science behind automated liquid handling and a review of its industrial applications. Students then apply that knowledge on a range of liquid handlers under the supervision of Automation Trainer experts. The hands-on portion of the seminar allows participants to experiment with numerous volume transfer tasks and mixing techniques, including dispensing liquids of varying viscosities. Issues such as dispense height, dispense speed, air gaps, and foamy head problems are also covered during the workshop. “A major benefit of the class is that students spend time dealing with real-world issues they face in the lab on a day-to-day basis,” said Petar Stojadinovic, co-founder of Automation Trainer.

The ARTEL MVS is a critical component of the seminar because it enables students to rapidly verify the accuracy and precision of liquid dispensing with volume statistics on a tip-by-tip and well-by-well basis. Keith Albert of Artel, who assists in the class, remarked “The class is

structured so that students optimize one parameter at a time in a step-wise fashion, progressively improving the performance characteristics, and therefore understanding the behavior, of the liquid handling equipment.” After using the MVS to assess the performance of a liquid handler for a specific task, the students adjust the variables – understanding the effect of each - until the task is optimized.

In addition to learning how to manipulate volume transfer conditions to reach the desired accuracy and precision of the target volume, students also gain knowledge about using multiple liquid handler types. “What is unique about Liquid Handling Boot Camp is the broad perspective it offers,” said Douglas Gurevitch, co-founder of Automation Trainer. “Students gain access to a variety of liquid handlers and can learn how to better utilize the equipment they already own, or test out models to inform a purchasing decision.”

Liquid Handling Boot Camp was first conducted as a seminar at Lab Automation in 1996 and redesigned in 2006, and since has been one of the most popular workshops at the conference. Based on this positive response, Automation Trainer offered the workshop in June 2009 at the Salem, MA facility of Atlantic Lab Equipment (www.atlanticlabequipment.com). Due to continued demand, the Boot Camp is now also being offered in October in San Diego.

About Automation Trainer

Automation Trainer offers hands-on laboratory automation training to help laboratory technicians understand the physical basis for automated liquid handling, an accepted feature of the high throughput laboratory environment. Automation Trainer presented the first Liquid Handling Boot Camp at the Lab Automation conference to give students exposure to liquid handling automation technology prior to purchase. Automation Trainer works with robotic liquid handler technicians, QA-QC personnel, laboratory automation engineers, laboratory managers, and other users of automated liquid handling equipment to familiarize them with the terminology, functionality, and optimization of liquid handling operations. Automation Trainer also offers courses on Biobanking, Bioinformatics, IBM Maximo Inventory, Facility, and Asset Management, Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS), Electronic Laboratory Notebook (ELN) technology, Forensics, Lab Automation for IT Professionals, Software for the Life Science Industry, Project Management, and the Economic Justification of Laboratory Automation. In addition to annual presentations at Lab Automation, Automation Trainer hosts Liquid Handling Boot Camp on a regional basis throughout the year. Website: www.liquidhandlingbootcamp.com