

AIRLOCK MODULE FOR MACS IMPROVES EFFICIENCY

Don Whitley Scientific has introduced a new 'add-on' airlock module for its MACS (modular atmosphere controlled system) range of anaerobic workstations. Developed to improve work-flow in the busier microbiology laboratory, the airlock can be supplied fitted, or as an upgrade to MACS MG 500 or MACS MG 1000 models.

The new module provides an easy and efficient method of transferring plates into and out of the workstation without interrupting operation. Manipulations within the workspace continue whilst the airlock is flushed with anaerobic gas and once the cycle is complete, a pneumatically controlled internal door can be opened providing access to the airlock area.

With an internal volume of 302mm x 302mm x 344mm, the airlock has a capacity for 90mm x 90mm plates in carrier tubes, plus space for swabs, loops, etc. All of the items are placed on a pull-out tray which ensures easy transfer into the work-area.

Airlock module for MACS improves efficiency Once the external door has been closed, a flushing cycle is initiated via an easy to use control panel which is very similar to that of the MACS. The airlock can be specified to operate on either anaerobic mixed gas or three separate gases - hydrogen/carbon dioxide/nitrogen, and a full cycle takes only 5 minutes.

A number of features have been incorporated to prevent accidental loss of anaerobic conditions and the status of the module is displayed at all times.

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MACS ANAEROBIC WORKSTATION SELECTED AS A MILLENNIUM PRODUCT

The innovative range of Modular Atmosphere Controlled Systems (MACS) from Don Whitley Scientific is amongst the first 200 Millennium Products to be selected.

A national initiative launched by Tony Blair in September 1997, Millennium Products aims to promote and encourage innovation by identifying new products and services created in Britain for the Millennium. Judged by panels drawn from nearly 100 leading experts in the fields of science, technology, business, design and the arts, selected products must be innovative, creative, forward thinking and pioneering in their field.

A new design concept for anaerobic and microaerobic workstations, the MACS range fully meets these criteria and incorporates many unique and advanced features. Comprising an ever-expanding set of modular elements, the system can be configured in a number of ways to create workstations to meet the varying needs of microbiologists. This design approach allows customers to economically expand and upgrade their system as required.

" We are a market-led company committed to excellence in microbiology," said Don Whitley, founder and Chairman of the Company. " We are delighted that MACS has been selected as a Millennium Product, which we believe is appropriate recognition of its innovative product qualities."

Up to 2000 Millennium Products will be selected between now and the year 2000. These will be showcased in trade shows at home and overseas, and will be developed into case studies for educational and business purposes. A selection of the products will also appear in the Millennium Dome.

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NEW COLONY COUNTER CUTS WORKLOAD BY 80%

The new Protocol colony counter from Don Whitley Scientific dramatically reduces the time required to count colonies and record the results. Ideal for busy microbiology laboratories, the versatile new system is suitable for use in a wide range of applications. Combining sophisticated image analysis with easy to use control software, Protocol introduces new levels of efficiency and accuracy to colony counting.

Based on proven technology, Protocol has been developed to rapidly count bacteria, cells and plaques on any media, including agarose gels, membrane filters and opaque or transparent agars. When linked to a microscope, the system can also count fluorescing bacteria or nuclei. Plates prepared using any method of inoculation, including spiral plating, and any dilution series can be accommodated.

With a unique, automated colony detection system, Protocol eliminates not only the variables associated with operator set-up, but also the problems caused by unevenly poured plates and variations in background density between plates in a batch. As result, the consistency of results is significantly improved.

Performance is further enhanced by the automatic transfer of results to a computer, which removes the possibility of transcription errors and improves throughput. Easy to use 'control software' acquires and stores data, offering a choice of report formats which include date and time for compliance with Good Laboratory Practice.

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PERFECT MEDIA EVERY TIME !

The new AES-S8000 auto-preparator from Don Whitley Scientific introduces a totally standardised procedure for preparing culture media. Simple and safe to operate and with the facility to link directly to the new APS 300 pourer/stacker, the new unit offers laboratories the flexibility required for 'hands-free' preparation of a wide range of agars and fluid media.

The S8000 has a capacity of 9 litres and can accept up to 40 customised programs. Guided by straightforward questions and prompts displayed on the LCD, operators specify the sterilisation sequence which may also be stored for future use. Sterilising temperatures can be set up to 125°C for periods of 1 to 60 minutes and dispensing temperatures can be varied from 30°C to 80°C. An optional ticket printer provides full traceability for QA validation.

Standardised preparation eliminates many of the variables in the quality of the final medium and when the procedure is further automated with the addition of a plate pourer, the result is a carefully controlled product. The APS 300 features a single carousel with a capacity of 320 Petri dishes (90mm), and has a rapid pouring rate of 750 dishes per hour.

Realistically priced, the S8000 and APS 300 provide a highly efficient and cost effective preparation system for today's busy laboratory.

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NEW RABIT SOFTWARE IMPROVES QUALITY CONTROL

Don Whitley Scientific has introduced Statistical Process Control (SPC) software for the RABIT system, which improves quality control in production processes.

Designed for use on both the shop floor and in the laboratory, the new software is an extension to the current 'RABIT for Windows' package which already offers extensive data manipulation options.

SPC allows the RABIT system to be used for the continuous monitoring of production processes, presenting the data collected over a selected period of time as easy-to-interpret charts. The information is automatically updated with new results allowing the operator to access the data at any time.

With the flexibility for multiple testing points along a production line, the SPC software tracks the impedance results for each product as it is processed which is invaluable in an HACCP-driven environment.

RABIT is a flexible modular system which provides rapid and automatic indication of the presence and numbers of bacteria in a wide range of samples. Up to 32 re-usable cells can be incubated in a single module and the system can be expanded up to 16 modules to give a capacity of 512 individual tests. Already in use throughout the pharmaceutical, food, cosmetics, toiletries and dairy industries, it provides accurate results in the fastest possible time.

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NEW VARIABLE ATMOSPHERE INCUBATOR IS IDEAL FOR BIOTECH

The new MACS-VA500 workstation from Don Whitley Scientific has a controlled environment in which the atmosphere can be varied to allow the study and isolation of demanding organisms such as microaerophils.

The microprocessor controlled MACS-VA500 supplies up to four gases into the workstation allowing the operator to accurately pre-select varying ratios of hydrogen (0% - 9%), carbon dioxide (0% - 20%), oxygen (0% - 20%), and nitrogen. An automated control system maintains the relative humidity of the environment while also removing excess condensation from the chamber before being evaporated.

Ergonomic design ensures that the technically advanced new unit incorporates many advanced features to ensure flexibility, ease of use and performance.

With a plate capacity of 540 plates, the MACS VA500 offers the convenience of a porthole transfer system which improves workflow, running costs and convenience. The portholes are used both to transfer samples and as armholes for the operator, and the oval shape and bare hands facility give superior user comfort and flexibility. Each porthole can be used to transfer

10 x 90mm plates at the same time as an operator's arms are inserted or withdrawn from the cabinet.

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COMPACT AUTOMATED POURER STACKER OFFERS RAPID HANDS-OFF PLATE PREPARATION

Don Whitley Scientific have launched a new Automated Pourer/Stacker which offers high performance plate preparation at an extremely competitive price.

The new compact APS 300 from AES Laboratoire features a single carousel which has a capacity of 300 Petri dishes (90mm). With a rapid pouring rate of 600 agar plates per hour and automatic stacking, it provides efficient 'hands-free' plate preparation for today's busy laboratory.

Operation and programming is easy, guided by straightforward questions and prompts displayed on the LCD. The plate carousel is convenient to load and its mechanically driven transfer disc can be effortlessly removed for cleaning. Once a programme has been initiated, the economically-priced APS 300 is a "walk-away" system, requiring no further intervention. Inverted plates are simply ignored and stacked empty without any interruption to operation.

The APS 300 can store up to 40 programs and an optional printer allows the generation of reports detailing the agar name, batch number, date, operator identification, volume prepared and number of dishes filled. Other optional extras include a facility to print on to the dishes, bi-plate filling, and refrigeration.

For maximum convenience, the 'easy-load' peristaltic pump is auto calibrating and allows the system to be used manually for filling tubes and bottles.

A different version of the unit, the APS 300/55 provides automatic pouring and stacking of 55 - 60mm plates. With sophisticated features, a low purchase price and minimal maintenance costs, the APS 300 is the best value pouring stacking unit available.

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