

L@b Brief | March 2025

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COMMENT

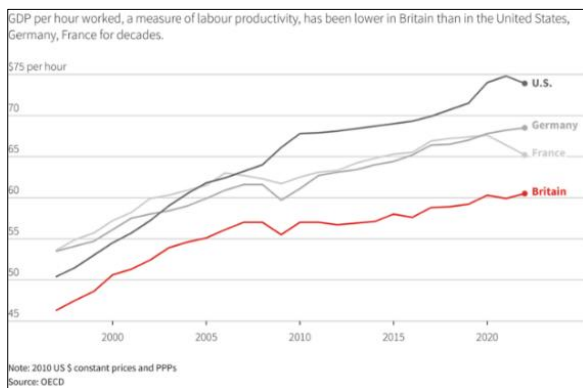
Where the UK Lab industry meets



THE GAMBICA lab industry conference which took place in March was a 'Great conference and worth attending' according to delegates. The programme's voice of the customer alongside political and economic forecasts was well received with comments including: 'Really great spread of subjects and excellent speakers' and 'Great to have so many

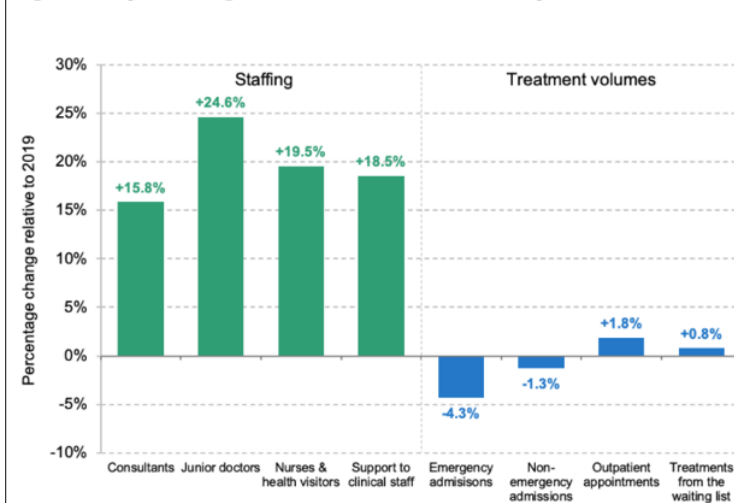
presenters (although the future of research session was felt to be 'too 'sciency' for some).

Delegates loved the 'Great networking opportunities' which started with the conference dinner with Champion jockey, Richard Dunwoody whose infectious optimism was somewhat undercut by TV commentator Anand Menon's keynote presentation which made it clear that we are all in for some difficult times. He highlighted the UK's productivity problems illustrated by an example from the NHS, which shows that throwing people at the problem doesn't always work.



Fascinating as always, Anand had the audience laughing despite our woes. Economist, Lee Hopley followed up with more detail on our current economic status in a presentation which was described as: 'Very honest and believable' and Joshua Chapman from SLS provided projections on lab sales from SLS's own intelligence and from the latest Instrument Business Outlook report.

Figure 1. Hospital staffing and treatment volumes in 2023 compared with 2019



Professor Marc-Olivier Coppens cheered the conference up with an enthusiastic and impassioned description of developments in the world of nature inspired science and Jess Andrews explained how the Centre for Process Innovation is working on laboratory automation and why it hasn't got very far.

Tony Withers from Grant and Stephen Pygott from Eppendorf explained to other members what they have been

doing to capture the carbon footprint of their products and this obviously struck a chord with delegates asking if this could be developed across manufacturers as a benchmark standard method.

The day was closed by Jayne Green and Christian Walter from Lab training company, George James giving a very funny and insightful run through of how to sell in Europe.

This year GAMBICA has been working closely with George James which has offered very well-received sales training on a shared cost basis for GAMBICA members – more is to be scheduled at the start of the summer, but before that we have been lucky enough to persuade George James and Biochannel Partners to offer their famous, ‘Selling through distributors’ training on a shared cost basis just for GAMBICA members. This has brought the cost of the two-day training down from £3600 per person, to under £800 per person for members.



Conference delegates liked the new venue and were especially complimentary about the food, so it has been decided to stay at the Barnsdale again next year. Looking forward to seeing you again then.

Jacqueline 😊

UK News

Old chillers struggling to cope with rise in ambient temperatures, Parliamentary committee told

SPEAKERS AT a recent meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Manufacturing Group on Industrial Cooling highlighted that there is little recognition of the likely impact of climate change on cooling demand and cooling equipment, including equipment used in laboratories.

Professor Judith Evans of London South Bank University explained that while commercial refrigeration equipment is normally replaced at around 20 years, in industrial settings it can limp on for 50-60 years. Even newer equipment, which is designed to operate up to 35°C may not be suitable for the temperate change predicted to occur over the next 20 years. “Such equipment is put under considerable strain by our current, rather higher ambient temperatures and does not work efficiently when the temperature rises to around 40 °C

which is becoming common in UK summers.” said Prof Evans who has recently spoken at a GAMBICA lab refrigeration group meeting.

Aging and strained equipment is less reliable but too few businesses are preparing for frequent failures the committee heard. Repeated or multiple outages will be worsened because skills to support older equipment are in increasingly short supply; especially since the Government introduced ambitious targets for heat pump installation, and the heat pump industry has started swallowing up talent from traditional refrigeration providers.

Dr Rob Lamb of Star Refrigeration also noted the double jeopardy for chiller manufacturers: meeting the growing cooling demands of the industry whilst ambient temperatures continue to increase, and driving down energy consumption to meet net zero targets.

“Climate change compounds both challenges, as it means that cooling equipment must work harder and use more energy. Ageing infrastructure also poses a problem. 47% of cold stores owned by members of the Cold Chain Federation are more than 20 years old and 36% are more than 25 years old. Many of these facilities were designed to operate in ambient temperatures of less than 30°C, which are now regularly exceeded.”

Unfortunately, the green revolution is coming slowly to refrigeration with many companies holding off from developing equipment which can use the new low Global Warming Potential gases as refrigerants. “The industry needs greater certainty with regard to the F-gas regulation, so that businesses can invest with confidence for the long-term,” said Dr Lamb.

Cold stores as batteries

Greater reliance on renewable energy and the switch-over to electrical power means that peaks in demand will become higher and more difficult to manage. Batteries will become hugely important and speakers including Tom Southall of the Cold Chain Federation made pleas for refrigeration users to be made legally responsible for providing energy storage mechanisms after the meter. Because of the huge amount of cold storage in the UK, the cooling industry has the potential to help alleviate periods of peak demand within the energy grid, by periodically reducing energy consumption and allowing temperatures to rise, within safe limits.

This flexing of businesses’ ‘thermal batteries’ is currently done on an individual basis to save cost, but there is a huge opportunity for a more coordinated approach. In the UK, cold storage warehousing uses around 3.5TW of energy every year, which could be cut significantly using these techniques. However, more support is needed for businesses to better understand and monitor their energy consumption and be encouraged to operate in this manner.

Standard for lab refrigeration published

GAMBICA, which was present at the meeting, lobbied for the better promotion of the Energy Technology List and to re-instate the tax credits for the purchase of equipment listed there as laboratory cooling is now included on the ETL.

GAMBICA also reminded the committee that a standard has now been developed to help with the inclusion of scientific and medical refrigerators in the EU’s Eco Design and Energy Labelling Regulations (EDEL). GAMBICA’s refrigeration group has input to the plans for this inclusion on a number of occasions. Details on the new standard; **prEN 18151 Refrigerators**

and freezers for laboratory and medical applications — Terminology, requirements, testing can be found [here](#).

An updated version of the EDEL regulation is now undergoing an internal Impact Assessment and a call for evidence is open [here](#). Information is particularly sought on two issues:

1. Whether energy labelling poses any risk to the health outcomes from the cabinets affected, i.e., if design of cabinets for improved energy efficiency might make them less effective in critical functionality.
2. Could minimum performance standards be applied to one or more sub-types of cabinet, even if they were not appropriate for types with critical and varied performance requirements.

If you have feedback on these or any other aspect of the impact assessment, please let me know and I will pass the information on. Email jacqueline.balian@gambica.org.uk

F-Gas non-compliance costs!

There has been another wave of fines issued for contraventions of F-Gas Regulations in the UK after November's round hit a number of lab companies. The latest fines included: German biotech and pharma chiller provider **Lauda Technology Ltd** was fined £4,750 for HFC quota failures.

- Chiller company, **Klima Therm Ltd** was fined £20,000 for quota failures.
- **Electrolux PI** was fined over £50,000 for quota and training failures and for placing non-refillable containers of fluorinated greenhouse gases on the market.
- Fuel wholesaler **Kool Blast Gas Europe Ltd** fined £3,451.85 on each of four separate failures to obtain HFC quotas
- **John Brett** was fined a total of over £1 million for failures to report imports of HFCs or to obtain sufficient quotas.
- Heat pump company, **Peak Energy Products Ltd** fined £4,500 for failing to submit a verification document.
- **EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd** was fined £75,000 for failure to ensure that equipment is provided with a leakage detection system.

Dragon's den to win investment for your smarter manufacturing projects

ON 16 May, a day-long, face to face pitch event is being run by Innovate UK for companies with a product or service focused on smarter manufacturing, particularly, AI, robotics or digitalisation. The objective is to provide equity or debt funding for products which are at least at proof-of-concept stage.

Carbon Limiting Technologies (CLT) are delivering the events series for Innovate UK and will assess your application and inform you of the outcome, providing you with time to prepare and practice your pitch. This will include a mandatory rehearsal session with a CLT expert to provide feedback on your pitch and support your preparation.

This is an invitation only event. The application form can be accessed [here](#).

Research news

New lab tool identifies viruses to combat *Staphylococcus aureus*

A NEWLY developed laboratory tool can quickly identify viruses that target drug-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a major hospital pathogen. These viruses, known as bacteriophages, offer a promising alternative to antibiotics, which are becoming less effective. The tool, PhARIS, was created by Professor Andreas Peschel's team at the University of Tübingen's CMFI and helps select the most suitable phages by analysing their genetic material.

Phage therapy works by using bacteriophages to infect and destroy specific bacterial strains without harming beneficial microbes. However, selecting the right phage is a key challenge. PhARIS speeds up this process, making it easier to match phages to bacterial variants.

For more information, click [here](#).

Robot phlebotomist developed



NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE, a leading academic health system in Chicago, and Vitestro, a pioneer in autonomous robotic vascular access and diagnostic blood collection, have announced a multi-year collaboration to advance automation in phlebotomy and enhance the patient experience.

Northwestern Medicine will join a multicenter clinical trial validating Vitestro's Aletta™—the world's first Autonomous Robotic Phlebotomy Device™ (ARPD™). The goal is to generate key clinical evidence supporting adoption of automated phlebotomy as a scalable solution for US hospital and outpatient blood draw centres.

Bob Gerberich, CCO of North America at Vitestro, commended Northwestern Medicine's visionary leadership in recognising the future of phlebotomy automation. He highlighted their commitment to establishing a new standard in laboratory workflow automation, marking a pivotal moment in integrating autonomous blood collection into modern healthcare.

For more information email Christopher.king@nm.org

LABORATORY Construction Update

Harwell tech scheme moves to phase 2



PHASE TWO of a tech development at Harwell Science and Innovation Campus will consist of nine individual mid-tech units under one roof creating 70,000 sq ft of laboratory, advanced manufacturing, and office space to support a growing community of leading scientists, engineers, and innovators within the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

The speculatively designed building, has just received the planning green light, and will be built at a site on the north-western corner of Harwell campus adjacent to Phase One of the development, Tech Edge 1 & 2, which is currently under construction. Tech Foundry West is expected to complete in early 2026.

Advent Bioservices to move into Unity Campus in South Cambridge

ADVENT BIOSERVICES has committed to a 5+5-year lease of lab and office space within the Cadence building, in the science and technology hub [Unity Campus](#) in South Cambridge. Following practical completion in May, 87% of Phase 2 at Unity Campus will be let.

Advent Bioservices is a Contract Development and Manufacturing Organisation (CDMO) providing Good Manufacturing Practice manufacturing of ATMPs and related products, process development, and ancillary services.

Mike Scott, President, Advent Bioservices, commented: "This space will permit Advent to expand and diversify process development, microbiological testing and quality assurance and quality control services to Biotech and drug development companies working in the cell and gene therapy sector."

Regional developer, Howard Group is overseeing the delivery of a bespoke CL2 laboratory fit-out, with Parkeray appointed as the contractor for this project.

New lab for Stafford



A 42m high (138ft) laboratory, which will test electrical transformers, is planned at GE Vernova in Stafford. Neil Beardsmore, from the firm, which has been based at the site for 60 years, said the changes would mean local jobs for apprentices and trainees. "Demand for transformers is growing as we go towards net zero and we want to meet that demand and establish a sustainable business in Stafford," he said. The new facility will test transformers before they are delivered to other sites. *(Image courtesy of GE Vernova)*

Silicon Labs' new \$80m R&D facility in Austin, Texas



SILICON LABORATORIES has been awarded a grant of \$23 million under the Texas semiconductor Innovation Fund (TSIF) to support its R&D facility development.

Fabless semiconductor company Silicon Labs designs and manufactures chips – primarily microcontrollers and wireless system-on-chips (SoCs) and modules – for wireless technologies.

Founded in 1996 and headquartered in Austin, Texas, the company said its new facility will offer "cutting-edge semiconductor design and testing equipment essential for elevating R&D efforts and maintaining Texas' technological leadership." Silicon Labs will also construct a research lab at the site and develop a platform to support the integration of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning accelerators, and other technologies.

Health and Care Research Wales £49m investment in research infrastructure

HEALTH AND Care Research Wales has announced Research Development Infrastructure funding for 17 research centres across Wales, including five new organisations.

The centres that will receive funding are:

National Centre for Mental Health (£2,999,894)	Wales Kidney Research Unit (£2,984,527)
Wales Cancer Research Centre (£4,866,172)	Centre for Trials Research (£4,742, 424)
Secure Anonymised Information Linkage Databank (SAIL) (£4,551,338)	National Cardiovascular Research Network (£2,073,161)
Wales Centre for Primary and Emergency Care Research (£2,996,483)	Wales Applied Virology Unit (£3,000,000)
Wales Cancer Biobank (£2,363,320)	National Centre for Suicide and Self-harm Prevention (£2,085,939)
Health and Care Economics Cymru (£1,865,815)	Centre for Social Care and Artificial intelligence Learning (£1,815,416)
Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre Partnership (CASCADE-Partnership) (£2,999,636)	Women's Health Research Wales (£3,013,936)
Centre for the Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement (DECIPHer) (£2,886,936)	Centre for Vision Services Research (£1,746,729)
Advanced NeuroTherapies Centre (£2,856,309)	

GAMBICA Events

NHS BID REQUIREMENTS | ONLINE | 7 APRIL 2025 | 12.00 - 13.00

JOIN US for a practical session on the latest NHS bid requirements, with a focus on carbon reduction plans. Litmus Sustainability will explain what they are, why they matter for GAMBICA members, and how to create one with minimal disruption. They will also touch on NHS Evergreen, and discuss how sustainability can help reduce costs, lower risks, and secure more business. Expect clear advice, useful links, and strategies to strengthen your bids while kick-starting your sustainability journey. Ideal for anyone working with the NHS or looking to build a greener, more competitive business.

To register to attend, click [here](#).

PATENT BOX – ARE YOU GETTING THE TAX BREAKS YOU DESERVE? | ONLINE | 24 APRIL 2025 | 10.30 - 12.00



THE PATENT Box regime offers a significant tax reduction for UK businesses investing in R&D and protecting the IP generated, yet remains a lesser-known and underutilised tax incentive. In this webinar, ForrestBrown's Patent Box expert will explore everything from eligibility to example calculations, taking on popular misconceptions about the relief along the way. Our speaker will be Angela Banerjee, associate director at ForrestBrown who has more than a decade of experience with Big Four and

specialist R&D firms, expertise in UK Patent Box, and in working with businesses to commercialise IP. To register to attend, please click [here](#).

TIME TO TURBO-BOOST YOUR COMPANY'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION
| ONLINE | 29 APRIL 2025 | 10.30 - 12.00



DID YOU know that digital transformation and a focus on customer experience can generate economic gains of between 20-50%? (Forbes)

Businesses can achieve real, measurable results from digital initiatives, but many companies struggle to know where to start. In this webinar, Sharon Palmer, ex-PerkinElmer and now

connected devices lead for Binary Vision, will explain how to integrate digitalisation into your business for faster results. She will cover:

- The business benefits of digitalisation projects
- Why 70% of projects fail and how to succeed
- Where to start

Whether your company is just getting started on its digital transformation journey, or you are already deep into digital, this webinar will provide you with tips for digital success.

To register for your place, click [here](#).

GAMBICA ECONOMIC FORECAST | ONLINE | 3 JUNE 2025 | 09.30 - 12.00

AS PART of our efforts to share knowledge within our community, GAMBICA has commissioned an economic forecast from Oxford Economics, focusing on the industries and global regions that our members supply into. Book your place to attend the live webinar now, plus you'll also receive a digital copy of the report. Early bird offer! For March and April, the cost of the report to GAMBICA members will be £170 + VAT per company (£395 + VAT for non-members.) Then the price will be £200 +VAT for members and £445 + VAT for non-members. After you have registered for the report and webinar, each company will be able to reserve up to two further places on the live webinar and you will also be able to share the recording much wider within your company. To reserve your place, click [here](#).

SELLING THROUGH DISTRIBUTORS – SHARED COST TRAINING | GAMBICA OFFICES, LONDON | 28 AND 29 APRIL 2025 | 09.00 - 17.00

This course is now sold out but we will be bringing you other sales training events shortly.

INDUSTRY Events

PITTCON | BOSTON, USA | 1-5 MAY 2025

PITTCON WILL run at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center as usual in May. Click [here](#) for more details.

LONDON LAB LIVE | EXCEL LONDON | 14-15 MAY 2025

YOU ARE invited to join industry leaders and innovators at London Lab Live 2025, where professionals from pharma, biotech, food & beverage, academia, and more unite to tackle the challenges shaping tomorrow's labs. Explore cutting-edge technologies on the exhibition floor, including the latest hardware and software from top suppliers and groundbreaking

innovations in the start-up zone. With eight themes across the conference program and countless networking opportunities, this event is your chance to connect, learn, and innovate. You can register now and attend for FREE by clicking [this link](#)

SLAS EUROPE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION | HAMBURG | 20-22 MAY 2025

SLAS IS the society for lab automation and screening and its exhibitions concentrate on lab automation. For more information about the German exhibition, click [here](#).

CHEM UK | NEC BIRMINGHAM | 21-22 MAY 2025

REGIONAL UK exhibition for the chemical industry, includes chemlab. More info [here](#).

FUTURE LABS LIVE | BASEL, SWITZERLAND | 28-29 MAY 2025

UK COMPANY, Terrapin is behind both London Lab Live and the original event which was developed to serve the pharma industry in Switzerland. You are also invited to experience what the organisers describe as Europe's most dynamic and inspiring event for lab innovation, bringing together professionals from pharma, biotech and academia, this free event features cutting-edge technologies and breakthrough ideas in the start-up zone. The event has 9 conference themes. You can register for a free pass by clicking [here](#).

LONDON BIOTECHNOLOGY SHOW | EXCEL | 18-19 JUNE 2025

THIS RELATIVELY new show aims to bring together policymakers, industry leaders, innovators, and investors from the global biotech and life sciences ecosystem. The event will showcase advances in biotechnology, pharmaceutical research, digital health, biomedical engineering, and regenerative medicine. With a well-curated exhibition and content-rich conference, the event will serve as an invaluable networking and knowledge-sharing opportunity for professionals and businesses in the sector. The organisers are offering participation opportunities for GAMBICA including the opportunity to host workshops which we will take up if members are interested. If you would like to attend or exhibit at this show, could you let me know in the first instance? Email jacqueline.balian@gambica.org.uk

SOLUTIONS IN SCIENCE | BRIGHTON | 8-10 JULY 2025

FEEDBACK FROM visitors to the last SinS conference in June 2023 was positive and the next event has now been scheduled to take place in Brighton. The aim of SinS is to showcase complementary and diverse ranges of analytical instruments, technologies, applications and present solutions to scientists from a range of industries and academic disciplines. To book your exhibition stand contact Chris Jarvis chris@intlabbmate.com 01727 855574.

ANALYTICA LAB INDIA | HYDERABAD | 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2025

ONE OF two lab trade fairs based in India, the Analytica show in Hyderabad is German run and designed to cater for both local and international markets. For more info click [here](#).

JASIS | JAPAN | 3-5 SEPTEMBER 2025

JASIS IS a large, well-attended exhibition run by the Japanese lab trade associations. It is a hybrid show with an effective online presence. For more information click [here](#).

ANALYTICA USA | CLEVELAND, OHIO | 10-12 SEPTEMBER 2025

SET UP to capitalise on the slow decline of Pittcon, this exhibition may suffer from a less than glamorous location – but it should be relatively cheap because of that. Click [here](#) for more information.

ILMAC | BASEL, SWITZERLAND | 16-18 SEPTEMBER 2025

THE INTERNATIONAL Laboratory, Measurement, and Automation Technology in Chemistry event has been held since 1959. For more information click [here](#).

FARMAFORUM | MADRID TRADE FAIR | 17-18 SEPTEMBER 2025

WHAT LOOKS like a fairly small Forum for the pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical and laboratory technology industry. For more information click [here](#).

ARABLAB | DUBAI | 23-25 SEPTEMBER 2025

GAMBICA WILL be offering a pavilion at Arablab in 2025 so you can attend with minimal effort. For more information email Kirsty on Kirsty.roberts@gambica.org.uk

LABNL | JAARBEURS, UTRECHT, NL | 23-25 SEPTEMBER 2025

PROFESSIONALLY RUN by the Federatie Van Technologiebranches this event covers industrial electronics, automation and lab tech. For more information click [here](#).

POLLUTEC | LYON, FRANCE | 7-10 OCTOBER 2025

FOCUSSED ON environmental and waste management, Pollutec is expected to attract 46,000 professionals over four days. For more information click [here](#).

FUTURE LABS LIVE | PHILADELPHIA, USA | 15-16 OCTOBER 2025

RUN ON the same lines as their European shows, Terrapin also offer this event in the US. For more information click [here](#).

Export News

New expert panel to support small businesses

A NEW Government appointed Board of Trade is to help businesses, including SMEs, to boost their exports. Made up of a range of CEOs and business leaders, Board members include Mike Soutar, BT Group Chief Executive Allison Kirkby, and Michelle Ovens CBE, the Founder of Small Business Britain.

The Board will examine small firms' access to finance, and is looking at measures that can be implemented to boost funding. GAMBICA has been asked to input into this call for evidence, based on your experiences.

The new board advisers are:

Omar Ali	Paul Lindley OBE
Mike Hawes OBE	Catherine McGuinness CBE
Dame Vivian Hunt DBE	Michelle Ovens CBE
Allison Kirkby	Mike Soutar
Paul Lindley OBE	Sarah Walker
Dr Charles Woodburn CBE	

Payment protection in emerging markets

YOU CAN now access all UK Export Finance's export insurance online. The new online service allows you to check eligibility and make a full application. It is available for

developing and emerging markets, where cover from commercial insurance might be harder to obtain.

To be eligible:

- At least 20% of the value of the export come from UK originating goods or services (the value can include profit margin)
- The buyer must be in a developing or emerging market where UKEF is on cover (this can be confirmed via the [eligibility checker](#))

UK EF export finance managers provide free and impartial consultations. They help UK companies to check they are getting the appropriate support and, if not, explore how to bridge any gaps. To find out more [get in touch with UK Export Finance](#)

Trade facilitation improves

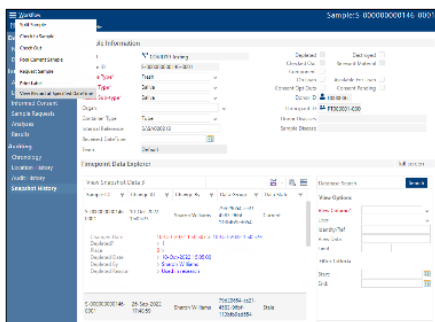
BORDER PROCESSES have been an annoyance to UK companies since Brexit but a recent report from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) indicates that between 2022 and 2024 there was significant progress on trade facilitation across the globe. During that period, border bottlenecks and red tape were reduced on average by 3%-7% across regions: Asia – Pacific (4.4%), Europe and Central Asia (3.1%), The Americas (4.4%), Middle East and North Africa (4.7%), and Sub-Saharan Africa (6.5%).

Comprehensive and accessible trade-related information is increasingly available online. Many economies worldwide have been enriching the information available online on advance rulings, fees and charges applied, penalty provisions, applicable trade-related legislation, as well as automated duties and fees databases, dedicated interactive webpages for companies and user manuals for new systems. Updating and enriching this information remains key to reduce administrative burdens and to help businesses anticipate and adapt to new policies.

For more information click [here](#).

Company news

LIMS provider, Interactive Software expands through innovation as it joins GAMBICA



Interactive Software Ltd, the newest member of GAMBICA, is accelerating its growth through product innovation. Originally established as a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) provider, the company pivoted to Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) in the early 2000s, launching its first system in 2003. To differentiate itself, Interactive Software developed both a core LIMS for straightforward implementation and a highly customisable system

designed to meet the complex needs of clients—particularly those in university medical research.

Despite many laboratories still relying on manual processes, LIMS adoption is increasing. “Many LIMS providers offer only basic functionality, but we distinguish ourselves by tailoring systems to replicate lab workflows and ensure regulatory compliance,” explains Sharon Williams, (left, below) Product Director at Interactive Software. “Once our customers see how our software can structure and streamline their data processing, their requirements quickly evolve.”

Tackling data migration challenges



One of the biggest challenges in LIMS adoption is data migration, particularly for laboratories managing large, unstructured Excel® datasets. “We take a selective approach when onboarding new customers, carefully analysing their goals and helping them optimise processes,” Sharon continues. “No organisation wants to import inaccurate legacy data, so we work closely with clients to assist them in standardising their datasets before migration.”

She recalls a case where a company managed over 200 spreadsheets in Excel, many of which were duplicated, slightly modified, or stored separately due to multiple users. “We had to design a system that incorporated only the necessary information while helping the client eliminate inaccuracies before uploading to the LIMS.”

Supporting groundbreaking medical research



Interactive Software’s Achiever LIMS is currently deployed in the Children Growing Up in Liverpool (C-GULL) longitudinal birth cohort study, led by The University of Liverpool. Over 10,000 families have been invited to participate in the project, which aims to reduce health inequalities by deepening clinical understanding and addressing social and health-related disparities.

Achiever LIMS is instrumental in managing vast sample volumes and laboratory results efficiently. The software integrates seamlessly with:

- A plate scanner for scanning multiple barcodes,
- The Remote Data Capture for Clinical Information (REDCap) system,
- The LIMS itself, ensuring the study remains entirely paperless—a core objective from the outset.

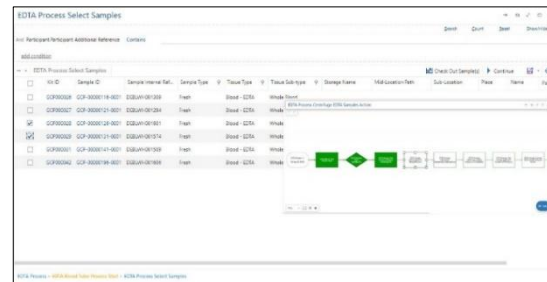
Dr Victoria Shaw, Head of Biobanking and GCP Laboratories Oversight at The University of Liverpool, highlights the impact of this integration: “The laboratory team might be given five kits in the lab at any one time. There’s no paperwork with those kits so how does the lab manager then link that particular kit back to the participant? It could be any one of those five participants. That is where the system integration has been critical, not just beneficial, it’s actually been critical to this process and will probably change how we work going forward as well.”

Security and expansion into new markets



Handling highly sensitive clinical trial data, Interactive Software prioritises robust encryption and access controls. “Security is fundamental,” states Sandie Shokar (left), Business Development Director. “We map out who can access what at the very start of each project. But that’s just the base layer—our clients manage highly confidential patient data and valuable trial results, so data protection is a key priority.”

Building on its success in biobanking and clinical research, the company is now expanding into agricultural and environmental sectors. “We bridge the gap between lab expertise and system functionality,” Sandie adds. “By automating workflows, we free up teams from manual tasks, improving efficiency and compliance. Our fundamental knowledge of highly regulated markets enables us to support new clients in similarly legislated industries.”



Leveraging GAMBICA membership for future growth

By joining GAMBICA, Interactive Software aims to enhance instrument integration and collaborate with manufacturers to overcome data restrictions in lab equipment. The company remains committed to working closely with laboratories, ensuring greater accuracy, compliance, and operational efficiency across both scientific research and industry.
