

# Is LIMS outdated?

## Software Capabilities vs. Systems



Interview with **Peter J. Boogaard**, former Director of VIALIS and founder and CEO of Industrial Lab Automation. [www.industriallabautomation.com](http://www.industriallabautomation.com)

**D**uring the Utrecht-based LabAutomation in June 2014, eFOOD-Lab International discussed the future of LIMS, Electronic Lab Notebook ELN and other features with Peter J. Boogaard, former Director of VIALIS and founder and CEO of Industrial Lab Automation. [www.industriallabautomation.com](http://www.industriallabautomation.com)

**eFLI:** Peter, you are giving an oral talk here in Utrecht on Big Data handling in Labs. What are your views?

**Peter Boogaard:** Actually, there are two different mainstreams in the industry: one group favors software solutions that look at the whole chain in terms of documentation and traceability, the other group is looking merely at LIMS solutions. Let me give you an example: 30 or 40 years ago everybody had perhaps a radio but that was only one available feature. To-date we have i-pods, i-phones, i-tunes, diverse players and internet platforms. The same happened to the software industry. It is not so much the system itself like any LIMS software but what's really required are the capabilities of a given LIMS. SAP does not have LIMS but it certainly has capabilities of a LIMS.

**eFLI:** How do you evaluate the future of LIMS?

**Peter Boogaard:** LIMS is a very powerful tool for documentation purposes but can become very expensive and fast outdated when it is a customized solution. An Electronic Lab Notebook ELN is a perfect solution when capabilities of LIMS and storage of formulation and experimental data is required. Very often people in a LIMS-only environment just want to make sure that their job has been done along the lines of the quality management system in place. In a bigger framework LIMS needs to be supplemented with



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other features. Especially the food industry often focuses on new formulations whereas the lab is purely fact and science based. The question of liability for data measured during the processing by online/inline measurements due to the regulatory requirements is very often a challenge for the lab staff. The need for securing data means that all methods for analysis and the storage of data demand very robust tools. This is a serious burden for all people involved and many systems are overestimated in their performance.

**eFLI:** What is the solution for the food industry where the pressure to come up with new products is very high while the flop-rate is an economic challenge to every company?

**Peter Boogaard:** Industrial Lab Automation (ILA) provides services to address harmoniza-

tion, integration and consolidation of business processes in Life Science development and manufacturing. Industrial Lab Automation enables cross-functional collaboration between research, development, quality assurance and manufacturing corporations to achieve Quality by Design (QbD) initiatives. ILA provides training and consulting services in the life sciences, healthcare, food, consumer product, chemical, instrumentation and software technology markets. The future lies in the paperless lab. The way how we use paper is key. There may be documents that will need to be printed in the future but archiving always means the need for electronic systems with ever increased performance.

**eFLI:** Thank you.

*Interview convened by Thomas Kützemeier*