

## **Key Considerations in Selecting a LIMS**

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Laboratory Information Management Systems are critical systems for management and control of laboratory data and for ensuring operational success. The selection of a quality LIMS can be overwhelming with so many different product offerings. As in any major purchase, it is critical that laboratories do their due diligence and ensure that they are not purchasing LIMS based on old, unsupported technology or database design or from vendors that lack audited quality systems; certifications and which don't re-invest in new technology or provide technical support. There are many different market segments that leverage LIMS and laboratory automation technology. For the purpose of this presentation, we will focus on the environmental LIMS market.

Environmental laboratories have special requirements in addition to the basic requirements that all LIMS share. Two of these include EPA requirements, CROMERR title 40 section 3 which addresses electronic reporting directly to the EPA and Good Automated Laboratory Practices (GALP). Key regulatory programs that many environmental laboratories embrace and hold include ISO 17025 and NELAP (National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program) Certification. Additional features that are important to the environmental laboratory market include the ability to generate Electronic Data Deliverables, Flexible Sample Scheduling, integrated calculations for common tests, and the ability to create workflows to match the business rules of the laboratory. In addition to regulatory requirements, usability, and technical support, it is also important to examine vendor qualifications and references. The presentation will provide a detailed review of the key considerations in selecting the best LIMS for your laboratory.