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new commercial products

Announcements of new commercial products are published by the *Acta Crystallographica Section D* free of charge. The descriptions, up to 300 words or the equivalent if a figure is included, should give the price and manufacturer's full address. Full or partial inclusion is subject to the approval of the Editor, to whom all correspondence should be sent. The International Union of Crystallography can assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the claims made.

FOX two-dimensional X-ray focusing optic

FOX is an innovative two-dimensional X-ray focusing optic. It is currently used for the most demanding protein crystallography applications *i.e.* structure determination, high-throughput screening, where high flux and high resolution are required. Thanks to our single reflection design and proprietary multilayer deposition process, FOX is delivering two times more flux within a 350 × 350 µm spot size than any other 2D confocal focusing optics used in a 12-38 geometry. Unlike other two reflection based optics, FOX is extremely easy to align and maintains your diffractometer performances over time. The main benefits are materialized in reduced collection time, higher signal-to-noise ratio obtained for the weakest diffracting spots at high resolution, and finally easy installation. Combined with standard rotating anode generators, FOX has enabled the production of results comparable to those obtained in synchrotron when using the SAD technique. Thanks to its vacuum housing and universal adaptor, FOX is also compatible with any other conventional X-ray sealed tubes: Cu and Mo tubes can receive a valuable upgrade and boost your existing X-ray system performances.

Should you wish to be eligible to our sales or return program, or obtain more details about the FOX system, please contact us by e-mail.

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New developments in protein-crystallization platforms and barcoding for cryogenic storage

1. Protein crystallization: a complete family of products

In CrystalQuick™, Greiner Bio-One has a complete new family of 96 protein-crystallization well plates for high-throughput screening, which are suitable for a number of screening strategies. This new development is the result of co-operation with the Max-Planck-Institut for Molecular Genetics, the Protein-Strukturfabrik (Protein Structure Factory) in Berlin and the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation, San Diego, USA. CrystalQuick™ plates are for determining optimum crystallization conditions at reduced cost followed by three-dimensional structural identification. These are the same size as the classical microplate and are available in the standard height with either flat or round bottom, as well as in the lower version with flat bottom. In their standard height with flat or round base, each of the 96 reservoirs corresponds to three crystallization cups, which means that for each plate, there are 288 possibilities for crystallization. The low version with the flat bottom is suitable for direct harvesting of the crystals. The compatible CrystalDrop™ lid is intended for sitting-drop and hanging-drop applications. The IMP@CT™ plate was developed for microbatch applications and permits handling of very small quantities of specimens under optimum microscopic conditions. The series is rounded off by the ComboPlate™, a 24-well plate combining sitting-drop and hanging-drop applications.

2. Sample management: Cryo.s with barcode

In line with the trend towards clear identification, storage and administration of samples in laboratories, Greiner Bio-One's program now includes barcoded deep-freeze vials called Cryo.s. The tubes are marked with a scratchproof and solvent-resistant barcode which represents a decisive improvement in the identification and storage of specimens. Handwritten markings, often illegible or incorrect, are now a thing of the past, as is the search for samples in the nitrogen tank or freezer. Greiner Bio-One offers its software package ProbeFinder™ and hand scanner FuzzyScan specially for the administration and management of barcode-labelled samples. In this way, samples can be identified quickly and accurately and administered with maximum efficiency. Besides this, ProbeFinder™ also provides information on samples arranged according to certain criteria, and allows its export in Excel or printout in selected lists. The program is suitable for network use and has access control for protection of laboratory data.

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