

TITAN® LIMS Allows a Leading Global Food Corporation to Meet Growing Demand for Food Safety Testing

Also Plays a Key Role in Achieving Laboratory Compliance and Accreditation Requirements

Company Profile

A leading global food company that is based in the United States and whose products are sold in over 40 countries to a wide variety of businesses including supermarket and hotel chains, wholesale distributors, restaurants, and hospitals.

Their Challenge

The company's corporate laboratory has been using the ATL TITAN® LIMS system since 2013. Leveraging the inventory control function, instrument integration, and automatic reporting features of the LIMS application, the laboratory team has nearly tripled the weekly testing volume at their lab without adding personnel. Accomplishing this task was possible by replacing a very manual lab management process with a highly automated process streamlining the testing, reporting, and auditing functions of the management system while ensuring compliance with ISO 17025 guidelines.

Having established positive results using TITAN, the laboratory began to take on additional challenges driven by the company's growth into new markets and product categories. Processing of many of their packaged products was increasing at company facilities across the United States and this was causing a strain on the laboratory since samples were being shipped from the plants to the lab for testing. Although using TITAN to manage the sample testing process was allowing the company to almost triple the weekly sample volume without increased staffing, the lab was physically limited on space.

Additionally, the laboratory was being asked to conduct more research testing, adding more complex research projects to an already busy routine sample workload.

Our Solution

The company had an existing network of satellite laboratories located at facilities around the country. They decided to turn these satellite labs into accredited branch labs under their ISO 17025 accreditation through the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation. Part of the process for accreditation was establishing the same LIMS system to manage their laboratory process. Working with the company's information technology organization, a deployment plan was executed, leveraging their private cloud infrastructure, and TITAN was rolled out to these branch laboratories.



In addition to implementing TITAN, the plan also includes interfacing key scientific instruments to automate the transfer of testing results to the LIMS, thus saving time and eliminating possible data transcription errors. Using the same LIMS system to support multiple branch labs helps ensure that all labs are following the same testing process, properly documenting that process, and are able to work in harmony to balance workloads around the country.

TITAN's configurability provides the company with the ability to fine-tune the LIMS as business requirements change. Its interface is user-friendly and laboratory staff are picking up on its capabilities although ATL's training and support resources are being utilized to optimize the investment in the LIMS. And as sample volume increases, LIMS' efficiencies allow for significant increases in testing volume without an increase in headcount.

Currently TITAN is in the process of being deployed to the satellite laboratories and the company expects productivity gains and cost savings similar to what they've seen since it was initially deployed at the corporate laboratory. In addition, the company expects TITAN to play a key role in the following:

- Continue to see a reduction of 15% on sample testing turnaround time.
- Proven traceability, which will be key to achieving ISO 17025 accreditation at all laboratories.
- Confidence in an easy-to-display audit trail, leading to more efficient and effective audits.
- Compliance with USDA and FDA requirements via the sample testing process, and timely and accurate reports.
- Flexibility to route samples to other laboratories in the case of a weather emergency (ex: hurricane or tornado) via the central TITAN database.



800+ Environmental Listeria Swabs Waiting to be Processed by the Laboratory

Accelerated Technology Laboratories (ATL), headquartered in West End, NC, provides laboratory automation solutions to a variety of industries from analytical, environmental, food & beverage, water and wastewater, chemical, government, public health, clinical testing and manufacturing. ATL's LIMS products are installed in over 575 laboratories around the world and supported by a steadfast commitment to excellence in product quality, support and training. ATL is one of the few LIMS providers that is ISO 9001:2015 certified. For additional information, visit: www.atlab.com.

“As we expand our accreditation to branch labs around the country, we have found that TITAN® is instrumental in ensuring uniformity in method procedures and data collection across all labs. We can set the incubation requirements and supplies or reagents required for proper traceability for each method used by all labs. We have centralized control of TITAN® and can modify settings instantly across all labs in real-time.”

D.E., Senior Microbiologist & LIMS Administrator