The Agilent ICP Workflow Automation System



Looking for ways to get more out of your ICP analysis workflow? While increasing automation can boost lab efficiency, bringing in third-party automation accessories can add complexity.

Only Agilent offers a completely integrated ICP workflow automation system—comprising hardware, software, and support—designed to free up your analysts for more productive pursuits. Our simple and reliable single-vendor solution integrates automated calibration, dilution, analysis, and reporting to lower your cost-per-sample and turnaround time while improving the quality of your results.

Reduce the hassle of dealing with multiple vendors and improve your lab's efficiency with the Agilent ICP workflow automation system.



Benefit of automation

Automating manual tasks can have big payback for your lab, including:

- Improved data quality with consistent, automated dilutions
- Increased revenue from higher sample throughput
- One analysis—no reruns, data reported same day
- Less sample handling and contamination
- Reducing labware-vials and pipettes
- Staff can concentrate on more valueadding tasks

Improving Your ICP Workflow Efficiency

A 2024 poll found that preparing calibration standards, remeasuring samples and diluting samples ranked 2nd, 3rd and 4th as the most time-consuming manual tasks. Many labs are seeking to automate these tasks to improve productivity.

| 1 | Preparing digestions or acidifying samples | 80% |
|---|--|-----|
| 2 | Preparing calibration standards | 69% |
| 3 | Remeasuring samples due to data quality issues | 60% |
| 4 | Diluting samples before ICP analysis | 60% |
| 5 | Diluting and remeasuring samples after ICP analysis | 55% |
| 6 | Screening samples before ICP analysis | 40% |
| 7 | Loading samples for analysis | 37% |

* Results from an online poll of over 120 laboratories, conducted in 2024

Improving Your ICP Workflow Efficiency

Manual tasks, such as preparing calibration standards and samples for analysis, consume time and effort. Automating these manual tasks is a great way to reduce the risk of human error and increase the sample throughput of your lab.

Agilent has a range of accessories that will improve the automation and efficiency of your ICP analysis, from autosamplers through to automatic dilution systems.



Improving Your ICP Workflow Efficiency

Lab managers are implementing more laboratory automation due to staff shortages, delayed analytical reports, occupational health compliance, result variation between analysts, and the need to reduce the cost per sample.



The Integrated, All-Agilent ICP Automation System

Increasing productivity

Why all-Agilent?

Our all-Agilent workflow automation systems:

- Are fully-integrated. There's no 3rd party.
- Are optimized for Agilent ICPs.
- Are designed to work as one system, with all settings included in the method and advanced features that can only be achieved when software and hardware are designed as one.
- Offer a simpler purchasing process and faster product support from a single point of contact.
- Require less staff training with only one software platform to learn.
- Contain no surprises. The system is tested to Agilent's strict QC requirements.



Having an all-Agilent system means one call, one field service engineer, and one trusted company to work with.

Agilent Advanced Dilution System

ADS 2 Autodilutor

Designed and manufactured by Agilent, the Advanced Dilution System (ADS 2) integrates with Agilent ICP-OES and ICP-MS instruments.

The autodilutor automates all common dilution tasks, including:

- Preparing calibration standards
- Premeasurement dilution of samples
- Reactive dilution and remeasurement of overrange samples
- Reactive dilution after internal standard or QC solution failure

Control of the autodilutor is an integral part of the instrument software (both ICP-OES and ICP-MS). Like the autosampler and switching valve, the autodilutor settings form part of the method.

Unlike other autodilutors, samples that don't require dilution bypass the autodilutor, so there's almost no increase in analysis time.



Automatic standard preparation

Specify which purchased or lab-prepared stock solutions are to be used to prepare standards, nominate the calibration range and the number of standards and the autocalibration assistant feature will prepare all the standards for you. The autodilutor can prepare up to 400 fold dilutions. Automated standard preparation means less handling of reagents, increasing safety and reducing contamination.



Dilutions of a single stock solution from 1x to 400x

Targeted dilutions

Customized methods can be created for the autodilutor. Using the 'Dilution Lists' function, you can choose to dilute samples that are over-range only for a particular element, avoiding unnecessary dilutions that can impact sample consumption and throughput. This functionality is helpful if your samples have high levels of matrix elements, such as sodium in brine samples.

| | Unknow | vn Samples | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------|-------------|-------------|---------|-------|---------|------------------|------|----|---------|-----|----|-------|----|------|--------|-----|---------|-------|-------|---------|--------|-----|------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Skip | Sample Type | Sample Name | Comment | Vial# | | Filet | Vame | 1 | Replica | tes | | Level | | Tota | N DIL | A | no Dilu | tion | | Dilutio | n List | | Dilution Multiplier | Final Weight or Volu |
| 1 | | Sample | Sample 001 | | 2101 | | | | | | | | | | 480 | 7.6923 | | | 10.00 | | | | | 5.0000 | |
| 2 | | Sample | Sample 002 | | 2501 | | | | | | | | | | 43 | 0.3448 | | | 50.00 | | | | | 1.0000 | |
| 3, | | Sample | Sample 003 | | 2402 | | | | | | | | | | 581 | 3.9535 | | | 10.00 | Be,Zr | n,Fe,Cu | Cd,Pb | | 5.0000 | |
| 4 | | Sample | Sample 004 | | 2303 | - | | | | _ | _ | | _ | | _ | _ | - | _ | _ | | _ | _ | | | |
| 5 | | Sample | Sample 005 | | 2204 | Edit Di | lution | List | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | Sample | Sample 006 | | 2105 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | Sample | Sample 007 | | 2505 | - | _ | | | | | | | | | | | _ | _ | _ | _ | _ | - | | |
| В | | Sample | Sample 008 | | 2406 | U | Be | | | | | | | | | | | 8 | C | N | 0 | F | Ne | | |
| 9 | | Sample | Sample 009 | | 2307 | Na | Ma | | | | | | | | | | | - | | P | 9 | CI | ~ | | |
| 10 | | Sample | Sample 010 | | 2208 | | | Ļ | _ | _ | _ | _ | | - | - | _ | _ | - | - | 100 | | | 100 | | |
| 11 | | Sample | Sample 011 | | 2201 | к | Ca | Sc | Tì | ۷ | Cr | Mn | Fe | Co | Ni | Cu | Zn | Ge | Ge | As | Se | Br | Kr | | |
| 12 | | Sample | Sample 012 | | 2102 | Rb | | Y | 71 | Nb | Mo | Te | Ru | Rh | Pd | 40 | Cd | In | Se | 55 | Te | 1 | Xe | | |
| 13 | | Sample | Sample 013 | | 2502 | | | | - | | | | | | - | - | | - | - | - | - | - | | 10.0000 | |
| 14 | | Sample | Sample 014 | | 2403 | Cs | Ba | L | H | Ta | W | Re | Os | Ir | Pt | Au | Hg | n | Pb | Bi | Po | M | Rn | 10.0000 | |
| 15 | | Sample | Sample 015 | | 2304 | Fr | Ra | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10.0000 | |
| 16 | | Sample | Sample 016 | | 2205 | | | | | _ | | | _ | | | _ | | | | - | | | _ | 5.0000 | |
| 17 | | Sample | Sample 017 | | 2106 | | | L | La | Ce | Pr | Nd | Pm | Sm | Eu | Gd | Tb | Dy | Ho | fr. | Tm | Yb | Lu | | |
| 18 | | Sample | Sample 018 | | 2506 | | | Δ | Ac | Th | Pa | U | No | Pu | Am | Cm | Rk. | a | fa. | Em | Md | No | Lr. | | |
| 19 | | Sample | Sample 019 | | 2407 | | | ~ | | | | 1 | | | | | | 33 | 1 | | 177 | | | | |
| 20 | | Sample | Sample 020 | | 2308 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Apply | | Car | ced | | |
| 21 | | Sample | Sample 021 | | 2301 | - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | _ | |
| 22 | | Sample | Sample 022 | | 2202 | | BeZn,Fe,Cu,Cd,Pb | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | | Sample | Sample 023 | | 2103 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Be,Zr | n,Fe,Cu | Cd,Pb | | | |

Results summary report

Automatically select and display the optimal results for each element in a sample—from all the measurements taken. Export this data set, or all data, to LIMS. All data is retained for integrity purposes.

Simplifying data review frees up your skilled analyst's time and automating sample preparation and reactive dilutions delivers less errors and greater result consistency.

| Solution Label | Al 237.312 nm mg/L | As 188.980 nm mg/L | Ba 455.403 nm mg/L | Fe 238.204 nm mg/L | Fe 239.563 nm mg/L |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Summary | 538.80 | 0.41 | 6.62 | 897.20 | 849.50 |
| Original | 497.65 o | 0.41 | 6.62 | 758.60 o | 736.63 0 |
| Dilution -10 | 53.88 | 0.04 | 0.76 | 89.72 | 84.95 |

Setting optimization tools

Enter the tubing lengths and the sample loop size into the Conditions Calculator function and it will determine the optimum settings to be used.

The Timing Monitor function watches the measurement signal and reports important system actions to make sure everything is as expected. You can use the information to fine-tune method conditions or assist with troubleshooting.



Easy setup

Designed for simplicity of use and lowest cost of ownership, the autodilutor has a small footprint for close-coupling with your ICP and autosampler to minimize tubing lengths and maximize sample throughput.

All tubing is pre-plumbed, color-coded and labeled for easy installation and maintenance.

Adding the autodilutor to an ICP system increases overall lab productivity as the automation of manual tasks frees up analysts' time.



Find the path

A real-time flow-path animation shows the direction of flow for sample, internal standard, rinse, diluent and carrier solutions as the autodiluter operates. The diagram and the accompanying Help and Learning Centre aid quick set up, learning (i.e. less staff training) and troubleshooting.



Smart system health tracking

The Early Maintenance Feedback function notifies the analyst when cleaning and maintenance is required. Traffic light color-coding of the counters visually shows which maintenance activities should be done immediately, and which can wait. The function monitors the instrument, autodilutor, and switching valve.

The instrument self test function includes testing of the autodilutor, identifying any incorrectly connected tubing.

| Instrument | | | | | | | | | | - 🗆 X | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|--|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Connect • | 💽 Plasma 🔹 | Pump • | SADS 2 🗸 | | | | | | | -ļa | | | |
| Status | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ADS 2 | | User Maintenance | Counters | | | | Receive Popup Alert | ts | Rest | tore/Set Default Counters | | | |
| Configuration | | | | | Class solution | | Clause service them have | | Deden under the alibertian | | | | |
| Calibration | | 1 | | | Clean nebulizer | 0 1 | Clean spray chamber | ① Ū | Perform wavelength calibration | 1 | | | |
| Tests | | + □ | efine new cour | nter | Solutions measured: 403, | /1000 Reset | Solutions measured: 403/2000 | Reset | Days elapsed: 28/30 | Reset | | | |
| Dashboard | | Inspect pre-optics wi | ndow | 0.5 | Replace pump tubing | 0.7 | Inspect torch | | Clean AVS | | | | |
| Maintenance | | | | (?) Ш | | ₩ (£) | | () W | | (?) ₪ | | | |
| Ignition | | Plasma on hours: 36/ | /40 | Reset | Plasma on hours: 22/45 | Reset | Solutions measured: 403/1000 | Reset | AVS switches: 397/5000 | Reset | | | |
| Plasma | | 1.00 | | | | | 7 | | | | | | |
| O Optics | | Clean ADS | | 1 | Inspect Syringes | ? 1 | | | | | | | |
| O Camera | | | | | | | í l | | | | | | |
| O Water Coo | oling | ADS Switches: 242/10 | 0000 | | Syringe Actuations: 1022 | /4500 | | | | | | | |
| O Plasma To | orch Door | | | Reset | | Reset | | | | | | | |
| O Torch Loa | der | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O Preoptics | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O Gas Modu | lie | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ۹. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Switching | Valve | Instrument Counte | rs ADS 2 Cour | nters | Maintenance Log | | | | | 戸前 十 | | | |
| O Argon | | 1 | | | ,,, | | | | | | | | |
| IsoMist | | Power on hours | 19828 | | Timestamp | Operator | Maintenance Performed | | Comment | | | | |
| O ADS 2 | | Plasma on hours | Plasma on hours 562 | | 11/23/2023 10:29:43 AM 11/23/2023 10:29:17 AM | User | Counter reset | Counter 'Clean AVS' h | as been reset after 6005 of 5000 cou on tubing' has been reset after 48 of a | nts 40 counts | | | |
| | | AVS switches | 6012 | | , <u></u> , <u></u> ,,,,, . | | | | counter replace pump tubing has been reserancer 40 0140 counts | | | | |
| | | Solutions measured | 7879 | | | | | | | | | | |

Switching Valve





The switching valve is integrated into both the ICP-OES and ICP-MS hardware and software, with all settings recorded as part of the method. The images show an AVS 7 switching valve on an ICP-OES (top and bottom left) and an AVS MS switching valve on an ICP-MS (bottom right).



Advanced Valve System

The Agilent Advanced Valve System (AVS) is a switching valve that doubles sample throughput, reduces cost per sample and results turnaround time. The valve achieves this by rinsing the sample introduction system while a sample is being measured, eliminating the delay usually caused by rinsing between samples.

The switching valve also reduces maintenance frequency and increases the life-time of consumables as there's less exposure of torches, nebulizers, pump tubes, and ICP-MS cones to aggressive chemicals and harsh samples.

Autosampler

SPS 4 Autosampler

The Agilent SPS 4 autosampler offers a short sample-tosample time and is fully integrated into the instrument software.

An integrated cover protects samples from contamination and protects your lab from corrosive samples, without increasing the footprint. A dual portwash reservior allows multiple rinse solutions to be used to eliminate cross-contamination between samples.

With a compact footprint, the SPS 4 can be placed on the lab bench or on a trolley to preserve your lab's valuable space.



The Agilent SPS 4 Autosampler can hold up to 360 tubes. The autodiluter can either fit neatly between the SPS 4 and the instrument or the SPS 4 can be placed on a trolley next to the lab bench, making it easy to move the autosampler around.

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DE87637946

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© Agilent Technologies, Inc. 2024 Published in the USA, March 28 2024 5994-6941EN





