

Press Release

Celebrating 10 years of successful partnership between Beckman Coulter Life Sciences and Nanion Technologies

Nanion Technologies GmbH
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Ten years ago, Nanion shipped the SyncroPatch 384PE automated patch clamp instrument to its first ever customer. The launch of the SyncroPatch 384PE was preceded by an intense period of innovation and development from scientists and engineers at Nanion, working together with Beckman Coulter Life Sciences to introduce Nanion's patch clamp module into the Biomek FX liquid handler to make a revolutionary high throughput automated patch clamp instrument. Ten years on, Nanion's partnership with Beckman Coulter Life Sciences is still going strong, with the further development of the SyncroPatch 384 incorporating Beckman Coulter Life Sciences' highly innovative Biomek i5 liquid handler.

The start of a fruitful collaboration

In 2012, Nanion embarked on a project to increase throughput and enter the high throughput arena with 384 simultaneous automated patch clamp recordings with giga-Ohm seals. With Nanion's expertise in high quality patch clamp, it was natural to seek a leading provider of liquid handlers in order to incorporate Nanion's patch clamp module, or 'patch engine', making a fully-fledged, high throughput automated patch clamp instrument. At that time, the innovative Biomek FX^P from Beckman Coulter Life Sciences was a reliable, highly flexible liquid handler already used in thousands of research laboratories worldwide. The adaptation of the Biomek FX^P to incorporate 1 or 2 patch clamp modules was straightforward and was facilitated by the exceptional collaboration between the two companies. After less than 1 year of

development, the SyncroPatch 384PE was fully operational and ready to be shipped to customers in December 2013! Michael George, CTO, Nanion Technologies said about the collaboration: "It was the robustness and flexibility of the liquid handler and its software that first attracted us to incorporate the Biomek FX^P into the SyncroPatch 384PE." He goes on, "We were impressed at how easily we could integrate the patch clamp modules and the software used to acquire the data with the Beckman software for controlling the liquid handler". Niels Fertig, CEO, Nanion Technologies added, "By working with one of the leading providers of liquid handlers, we could be sure to develop the best high throughput automated patch clamp instrument for our customers."

Continuous innovation

As part of its journey of continuous improvement, in 2017 Beckman Coulter Life Sciences announced the launch of the new Biomek i-Series liquid handlers, building on the success of the Biomek FX^P by improving features and extending the breadth of applications. The Biomek i5 is a highly versatile system that caters to diverse laboratory applications including genomics, proteomics, drug discovery, and synthetic biology. Researchers can seamlessly automate various processes, enhancing efficiency and expanding possibilities.

The Biomek i5 was chosen by Nanion for its new SyncroPatch 384i, and later in 2020 for its new and highly improved SyncroPatch 384, taking advantage of the reliability and expanded deck space for direct integrations on the i5 liquid handler. The thoughtful design of the Biomek i5 made it possible to seamlessly integrate Nanion's patch clamp module and advanced temperature control.

Ewan Grant, Director of Liquid Handling and Genomics at Beckman Coulter Life Sciences, commented: "The rewarding relationship between Nanion and Beckman Coulter Life Sciences has led to remarkable advancements in the field, combining expertise to deliver cutting-edge solutions and empower researchers worldwide. This is all part of our mission to deliver innovative solutions to laboratories of all sizes, enabling them to cut through the bottlenecks of error-prone and time-consuming manual steps, empowering them to achieve results often faster and with greater accuracy."

Nanion's SyncroPatch 384 platform (successor of SyncroPatch 384PE and SyncroPatch 384i) allows effortless high-throughput ion channel screening coupled with high flexibility and reliability, due to the combination of its patch clamp module with Beckman Coulter Life Sciences' new i-Series liquid handling robot Biomek i5.

Forging a strong partnership for the future

Nanion and Beckman Coulter Life Sciences are celebrating ten years of partnership to accelerate answers for the life sciences community. This partnership has led to optimized workflows for service and preventive maintenance offerings, which benefits Nanion's customers. Although all Nanion's instruments are serviced and maintained by Nanion's team of certified engineers, they work closely with Beckman Coulter Life Sciences' engineers to ensure smooth running of the Biomek i5 liquid handlers and constant innovation of the patch clamp technology for which Nanion is known.

The SyncroPatch 384 has found a place in academic institutions, contract research organizations (CROs) and pharmaceutical research laboratories alike, through its high flexibility coupled with high throughput. Simon Rice, Electrophysiologist, at SB Drug Discovery said, "The SyncroPatch 384 and Beckman Coulter Life Sciences i5 liquid handling robot are seamlessly integrated, both complementing one another to produce a high-quality, reliable platform central to our ion channel drug discovery work. This close relationship is highlighted by the continual development of the platform, striving to enhance HTS and liquid handling capabilities. The result is a system that meets our demands and is complemented by exceptional customer service – fast, insightful, and innovative".



About Nanion Technologies

Nanion Technologies is a leading provider of instrumentation for ion channel drug discovery and screening. Founded in 2002, Nanion has grown over the last 21 years to a company with over 120 employees worldwide. Nanion's team has developed and successfully established four generations of APC instruments along with further product lines for cell monitoring and toxicity screening, parallel bilayer recordings, and membrane transporter protein measurements.

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About Beckman Coulter Life Sciences

Life sciences. Research. Precision manufacturing. If your life's calling is in any of these or related fields, you need to know Beckman Coulter Life Sciences. Our mission is to empower those seeking answers to life's important scientific and healthcare questions. Since 1935, the Beckman name has been synonymous with technologies that simplify and automate complex biomedical testing. Decades later, our global organization also came to embody the scientific legacy of the Coulter name. Today, Beckman Coulter Life Sciences is a trusted, worldwide resource for tools to help optimize research and manufacturing efficiency. Centrifuges. Particle counters/analyzers. Automated liquid handlers. Flow cytometers. Genomic reagents. All these products—and many more—continue to make a difference in people's lives by improving the productivity of dedicated scientists, quality control experts and others. Wherever people need answers, from prestigious universities and major pharmaceutical companies to small biotech startups, food/beverage and electronics manufacturing facilities, you can find Beckman Coulter Life Sciences.

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