

Lab Automation Strategy Assessment for a CDMO

Clarkston Consulting conducted a lab automation strategy assessment for one of the biggest global Contract Development and Manufacturing Organizations (CDMO). The client has more than 50 years of experience in delivering trusted services for personalized medicine and pharmaceutical companies, consumer health, and animal health products. The company works on drug formulation development and delivery technology, including assisting with drug product approval process by the FDA, with a clear goal to achieve reduced costs and faster production.

With fast-growing competition in the pharmaceutical industry, the client was eager to enhance its digital technology to close quality gaps and optimize its business processes during the manufacturing cycle. As a result of this digital enhancement, the company would help its clients increase production efficiency, leading to lower costs and higher ROI.

As a first step toward their goal, the company partnered with Clarkston in a 12-week assessment, leveraging our industry and laboratory expertise and best practices to analyze and research opportunities for improvement, develop recommendations, and provide guidance for process optimization. The company also wanted to make lab work more efficient by simplifying methods with LIMS software processes and workflows, which would reduce human errors and improve data accuracy.

During the laboratory automation assessment process, Clarkston conducted interviews with stakeholders from every business unit, analyzing documentation and operations against industry standards. Gaps and pain points were identified, and a deployment strategy to optimize laboratory capabilities was developed. In addition to analyzing individual stakeholder interviews as a part of the lab automation strategy assessment, each department's laboratory was also analyzed separately to ensure that the recommended lab digital architecture and capabilities were fit for purpose.

As a result of Clarkston's work, a recommended strategy was developed for each business unit, by plant maturity level, showing the individual approach to the different departments of the laboratory.

Life Sciences Case Study

PROJECT OVERVIEW

INDUSTRY:



Life Sciences

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES:



Contract Development and
Manufacturing Organization
(CDMO)

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:

- Conduct a detailed assessment of laboratory operations
- Compare client operations against industry standards
- Identify gaps and pain points in laboratory automation processes
- Develop a deployment strategy to achieve laboratory automation capabilities and opportunities for improvement
- Optimize the laboratory automation processes to increase productivity and cut costs

RESOLUTION:

- Conducted interviews with stakeholders from global and business unit teams
- Gathered and reviewed laboratory documents
- Reviewed LIMS capabilities and compared them to industry automation standards
- Summarized and categorized findings
- Compared client capabilities and client's digital architecture with industry-leading practices

KEY BENEFITS:

- Provided a recommended systems architecture for each business unit by maturity level
- Defined key lab capabilities for each architecture, maturity level, and business unit combination
- Provided a deployment strategy to achieve digital laboratory capabilities
- Recommended a deployment and support team structure
- Developed a release strategy that defined key elements to implement enhancements



KPIs

- Interviewed 13 stakeholders
- Defined lab capabilities for 4 different laboratory archetypes by maturity level (1,2,3).

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