

Thermo Fisher collaborates with Artificial to enhance COVID-19 diagnostic testing solution

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Collaboration agreement between Thermo Fisher Scientific and Artificial enables improved integration of software and robotics platforms to maximize COVID-19 testing throughput and efficiency



Thermo Fisher Scientific, the world leader in serving science, and Artificial, developers of flexible automation software, have announced a strategic technology collaboration to develop an integrated and comprehensive software automation platform for Thermo Fisher's standardized COVID-19 Testing Platform. The integration will result in increased testing throughput and support global healthcare initiatives.

As part of the collaboration, Artificial will provide access to its [aLab Suite software](#), designed to seamlessly integrate with [Thermo Scientific Momentum Workflow software](#) and [robotics hardware](#). This will form part of the [COVID-19 Testing Platform](#) that will enable laboratories to quickly upscale COVID-19 testing volumes to help reduce the spread of the disease and restore economies and communities. The aLab Suite software facilitates the dynamic scheduling of protocol runs with batch optimizations to maximize the number of tests run. In addition, manual system set-up steps associated with Momentum process execution can be coordinated using aLab digital assistants to reduce the need for user input. Furthermore, the use of aLab assistant's digital twin of a COVID-19 testing system to guide lab technicians on where, when and how to load system consumables will reduce errors associated with manual tasks, ensuring sample safety and integrity and increasing system productivity.

"Laboratories performing COVID-19 testing continue to face the combined challenges of rapidly scaling workflows to meet the demands of communities while ensuring the accuracy and reproducibility of results," said Hansjoerg Haas, senior director and general manager, laboratory automation, Thermo Fisher Scientific. "This collaboration enables biopharma and contract services companies to both simplify their lab technicians' interactions with automated systems and more efficiently coordinate the use of their multiple Momentum automated systems, increasing productivity and minimizing user intervention to meet industry needs."