

Control at your fingertips – TouchTools Suite™

The development of **TouchTools Suite** is a perfect example of how Tecan personnel live and breathe automation!

One day in 2006, on a long drive through Europe, three Tecan specialists came up with a new way to make Tecan's automated systems even more accessible, particularly for users who are not familiar with writing software scripts. Eskil Trollhagen, product manager for Freedom EVOware® and TouchTools Suite, Michael Laab, head of Tecan's Software Competence Center in Mainz, and Beat Glauser, program manager and now senior project manager at REMP, began by discussing possible software innovations that would complement robotic instruments, and a small, unofficial feasibility study soon resulted in the first prototype touchscreen interface. The positive reaction from customers to this first prototype propelled the development of the TouchTools Suite, which was launched at LabAutomation 2009 earlier this year to great acclaim.

The whole concept behind TouchTools Suite is that of a simple touchscreen. The appealing user interface allows easy control of the pipetting platform with a number of functions. The **Application Starter** offers a selection of methods from a graphical list, guides the user through the start procedure and provides on-screen instructions for loading the worktable. **Instant Pipetting™** is a unique, patent pending module for direct, real-time control of pipetting robots. Even without programming skills or a pre-defined script, the user can immediately start pipetting without help from an automation specialist. Pipetting actions can be repeated or saved, effectively providing a new way of programming the instrument. **QuickStart** presents buttons on the touchscreen that can be linked to specific scripts so that chosen applications can be started immediately, literally at the touch of a button.



Carroll Ray, our travel agent, trains Sally Spafford, Tecan's purchasing agent, after only five minutes of experience with the TouchTools Suite.

The **Common Notification System (CNS)** allows the user to monitor an instrument's status remotely, notifying them of unexpected events thereby increasing walkaway time and process security. CNS can now be accessed through iPod touch, iPhone or other mobile devices with a web browser. The new **Freedom EVO® Remote** application, available in the iPhone App Store, allows convenient monitoring of all the instruments in the network, which can be particularly useful if the instrument is in a clean room, sterile hood or cold room, where access is difficult and could risk contamination.

The TouchTools Suite launch at LabAutomation 2009 saw crowds flocking to the Tecan stand to try Instant Pipetting for themselves.

www.tecan.com/touchtoolssuite



iPod is a registered trademark, iPhone is a trademark and App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. in the US and other countries.

Microsoft, Windows and Windows Mobile are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the US and/or other countries.

Wi-Fi is a registered trademark of the Wi-Fi Alliance.