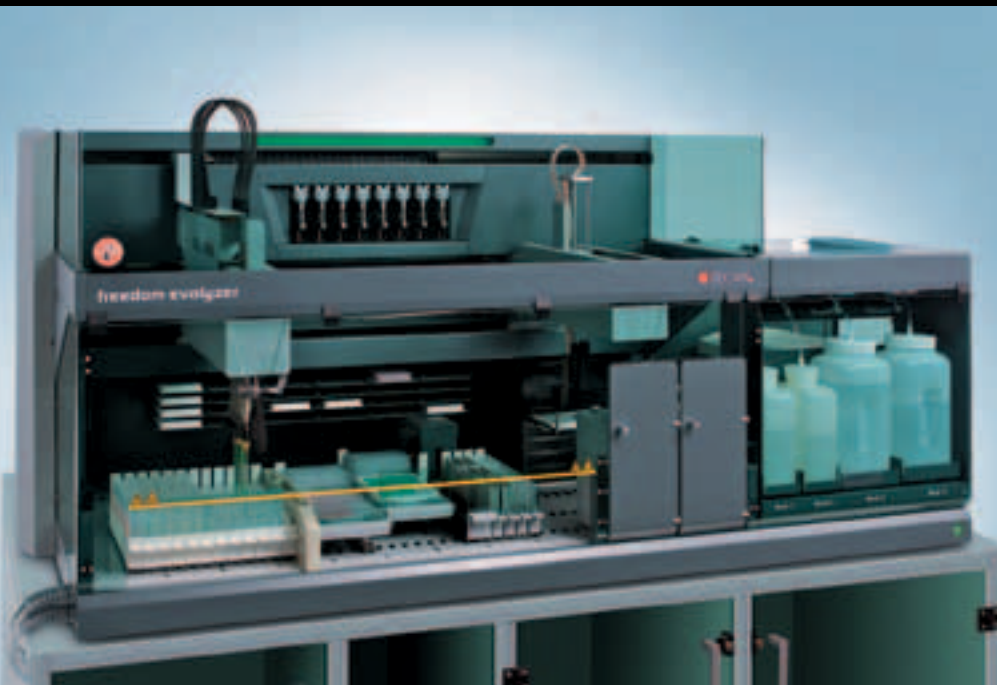


High throughput HIV screening with Freedom EVOLyzer®

ViroMed, a provider of laboratory testing services based in Minneapolis, USA, chose six Freedom EVOLyzers to support high throughput ELISA testing for a substantial HIV screening project.



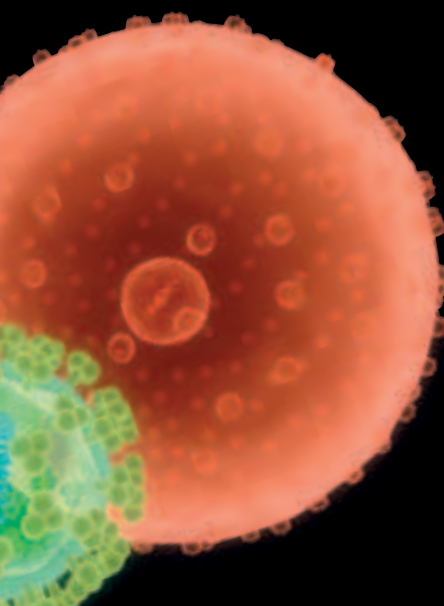
The Freedom EVOLyzer offers high throughput ELISA processing

ViroMed Laboratories, Inc. (ViroMed) – a wholly owned subsidiary of Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings (LabCorp) – provides a broad menu of laboratory testing services to public and private healthcare providers, government agencies and pharmaceutical companies throughout the United States. The Company has extensive experience in high volume, rapid turnaround testing, and chose six Freedom EVOLyzer systems for a recent HIV screening project. The volume of samples for this ten month project varied greatly, ranging from 2,500 to 8,000 or more samples per day, five days a week, and ViroMed relied on the Freedom EVOLyzers to provide timely and accurate results, while completely eliminating manual operation.

Gina Trebilcock, Laboratory Operations Manager and Associate Vice President of ViroMed, explained: “High throughput, efficiency and reliability were critical to meeting the short eight hour turnaround time we had to achieve for this project. We were able to evaluate the instrument in our laboratory prior to purchase, and could see that it would meet our throughput requirement of between 30 and 100 ELISA plates per day. We encountered no cross contamination or carryover, both critical issues for us to consider.”

With assistance from Tecan application specialists, ViroMed was able to ‘go live’ and have the instruments in routine operation within two months of delivery. Gina continued: “The transition to the Freedom EVOLyzer was easy, and the training required was minimal. We were already familiar with Tecan instruments, and the Freedom EVOLution™ software is intuitive and user-friendly, prompting the operator with specific instructions. It took approximately two weeks to install and set up all the instruments, and the rest of the time was spent on internal validations, custom programming for data reduction, and interfacing each of the systems to our centralized LIS database.”

The Freedom EVOLyzer has the flexibility to deal with the varied requirements of ELISA kits from a range of different suppliers. Gina said: “We were running a commercially available ELISA kit, and the Freedom EVOLyzers were programmed according to the kit manufacturer’s instructions, with the testing protocol stored in the



Freedom EVOLution Run Control software. The Freedom EVOLyzers use barcode identification for all samples, with each barcode assigned to an ELISA plate map. We worked with the application specialist to do some custom programming to meet our client's specific requirements, and the software was able to carry out the data reduction, automatically transferring the results to our internal LIS system without the need for manual intervention. This improved our efficiency, creating a more robust, continuous process."

"The Freedom EVOLyzer was also able to handle variable sample volumes effectively. Samples during this project ranged from tubes that were completely full to those with minimum serum volumes, and the platforms' liquid sensing capabilities allowed accurate pipetting from these varying tube volumes. Another advantage was that the Freedom EVOLyzers could cope with variable throughputs, so the lab was able to operate the instruments with just a few plates or fully loaded with six plates."

Gina concluded: "Once all six Freedom EVOLyzers were installed and operational, they performed exactly as they did during the evaluation process. They proved reliable, offered consistent performance and met our expectations."

To find out more on Tecan's Freedom EVOLyzer workstations, visit www.tecan.com/freedomevolyzer

To find out more on Tecan's clinical diagnostics solutions, visit www.tecan.com/clinicaldiagnostics

One of six Freedom EVOLyzer platforms used for the HIV screening project

