

## PEAKS of Interest

### Agilent sponsors ACS award

Agilent Technologies (Wilmington, Delaware) invites nominations for the ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry Award for Young Investigators in Separation Science.

The award recognizes and encourages outstanding contributions to the field of separation science by a young chemist or chemical engineer. It is intended to complement the existing ACS Award in Chromatography and the ACS Award in Separation Science for established investigators.

Nomination is open to young chemists or chemical engineers of any nationality from academia, industry, or national laboratories. Nominees must have earned their highest degree within 10 years of January 1 of the year of the award (2005).

The award will consist of a \$4000 honorarium, a plaque, and a special award symposium to be held at the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy 2005. Deadline: November 1, 2004. For more information, please visit [www.acs-analytical.duq.edu/dac\\_awards.htm](http://www.acs-analytical.duq.edu/dac_awards.htm).

### Ticoscen, Inc. celebrates 10-year anniversary

Ticoscen, Inc. (Laurel, Maryland) celebrated its 10-year anniversary this past July. Ticoscen is the first independent company in the separation science instrument servicing market to specialize in providing services for the emerging evaporative light-scattering detection technology industry, including service for ELSD, LLSD, and ELS detectors. The company also provides GMP-GLP testing, IQ-OQ-PQ services, and FDA compliance and performance testing services. U.S. and international customers include research and development departments, pharmaceutical manufacturers, state and federal government research labs, and other life science research laboratories.

### Gerstel and RVM Scientific form fast GC partnership

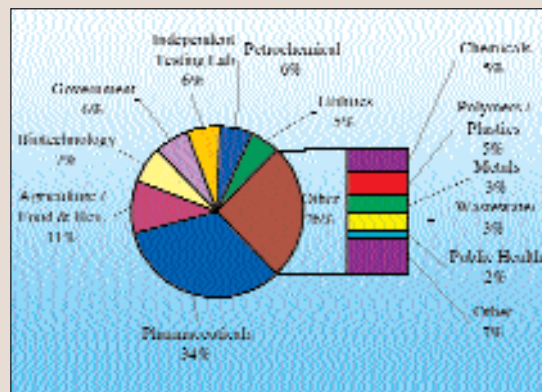
Gerstel GmbH & Co. KG (Mulheim an der Ruhr, Germany and Baltimore, Maryland) and RVM Scientific, Inc. (Santa Barbara, California) have formed a partnership to develop, market, and distribute products that provide fast GC capabilities. Core products include low thermal-mass GC column modules, manufactured by RVM Scientific, that incorporate direct resistive heating and integrated temperature sensing rather than convection oven heating. These enable ultra-fast separations of complex samples with good linearity and short cycle times to provide high-throughput analyses. Gerstel will provide value-added product and applications development including software, multidimensional GC capabilities, and multi-

### Chromatography Market Profile

## Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS)

Laboratories today create vast amounts of information, and more than ever before, they are expected to continue to expand their information capabilities.

A laboratory information management system (LIMS) allows the laboratory to manage its increasing sample load more efficiently and productively, streamlining workflow, which results in an overall cost reduction for the lab. Some industries, such as the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries,



Industrial distribution of LIMS respondents.

have stringent regulatory requirements in which an LIMS is perhaps the only practical solution for organizing laboratory operations.

For most labs, selecting the right LIMS is probably one of the most important decisions they will make, especially because an LIMS can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and upwards of several million dollars to implement. There are dozens of LIMS companies, each with specific strengths and weaknesses. Some LIMS vendors focus on a specific industry, while other vendors have broader capabilities.

Although there are still many laboratories without an LIMS, there are a significant number of labs currently looking to upgrade their legacy systems. In fact, many end-users must decide to either perform a complete overhaul or simply upgrade their system. The requirements of the lab seem always to be changing, and an LIMS can become obsolete quickly. Sometimes applications change or new applications will enter the fray that will require an LIMS upgrade.

Selecting the same vendor for the LIMS is always tempting, simply because that vendor is the most likely to understand the labs requirements. However, poor vendor support and limited product capabilities can cause users to overhaul an LIMS and switch to a different vendor.

Earlier this year, SDi conducted a survey of LIMS users. Approximately 550 total users filled in the questionnaire related to different aspects of their LIMS product and LIMS vendor. The graph shows the industrial distribution of respondents to SDi's 2004 North American LIMS survey. This information was extracted from SDi's Tactical Sales and Marketing (TSM) report, "The 9th Annual North American Survey of LIMS Users."

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column confirmatory analysis capabilities, while also providing distribution channels throughout the world.

### Thermo Electron acquires InnaPhase Corporation

Thermo Electron Corporation (Waltham, Massachusetts) has completed the acquisition of InnaPhase Corporation (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), a premier supplier of laboratory information management systems (LIMS) for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology markets. InnaPhase's products will be integrated with Thermo's infor-

matics product line.

"Bringing together the proven, innovative products and the industry knowledge represented by the people from both organizations will allow us to provide a breadth of solutions for our customers," commented Jo Webber, former CEO of InnaPhase, and newly appointed general manager of Thermo's informatics business.

The addition of InnaPhase's LIMS technology broadens and strengthens the array of solutions Thermo is able to provide its customers in key applications. ■