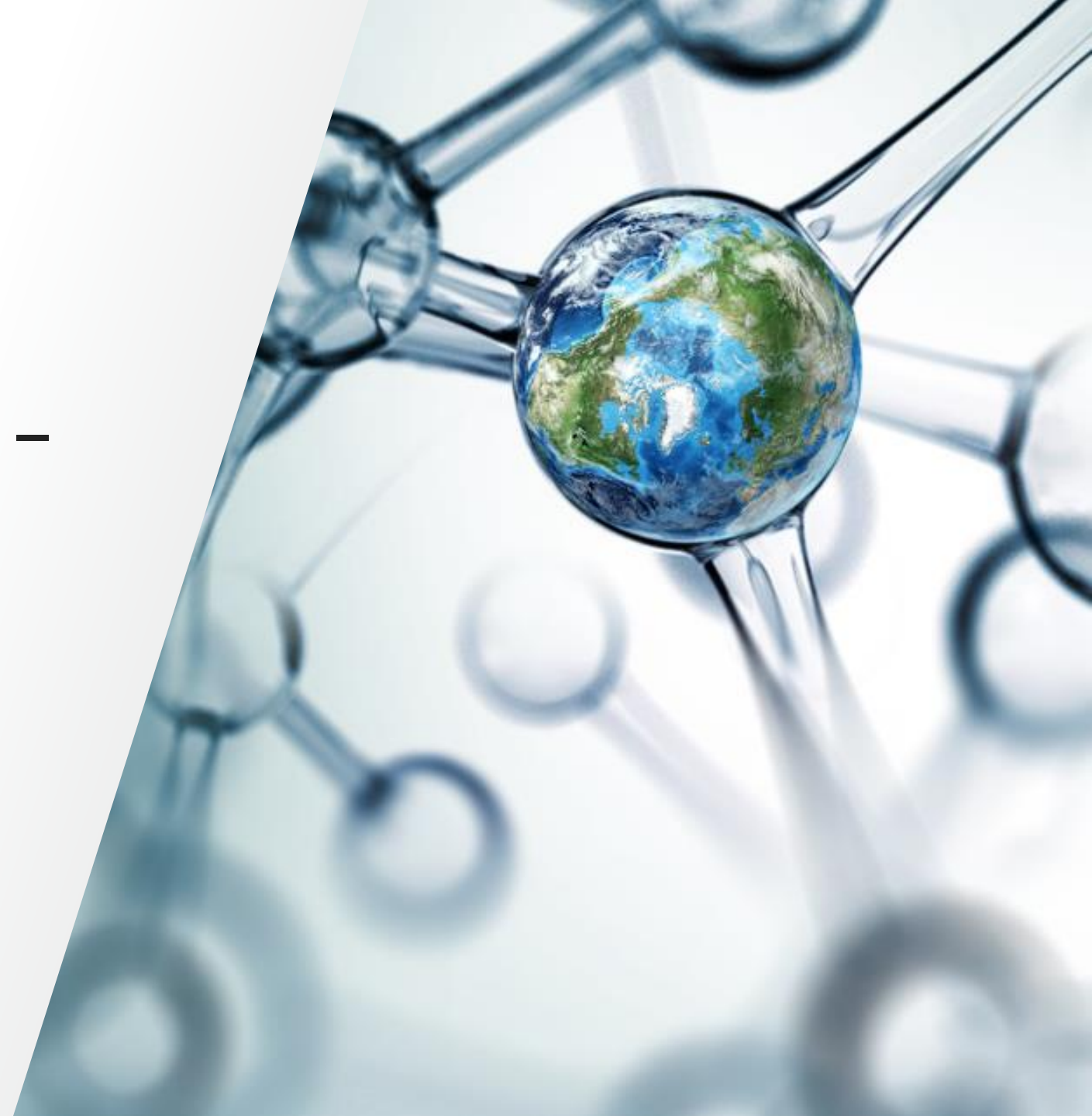


# Power your elemental analysis – Get ready to transform your productivity

**Weimin Yang**

Sr. Application Scientist, Trace Elemental Analysis  
Thermo Fisher Scientific

 The world leader in serving science



# Typical challenges faced by laboratories analyzing trace elements



Highly diverse matrix samples



Interruptions due to maintenance



Operational complexity



Personnel that operate several different instrument types



Reducing environmental impact



# Introducing the latest advances in ICP-MS analysis

Thermo Scientific™ iCAP™  
RQplus ICP-MS

Thermo Scientific™ Qtegra™  
Intelligent Scientific Data Solution  
(ISDS) Software

Thermo Scientific™  
iSC-65 Autosampler





# Building on our strengths

## Ease of use

Automated Get Ready data driven, start-up process

Easy access interface door

Quick connect sample introduction components



## High productivity

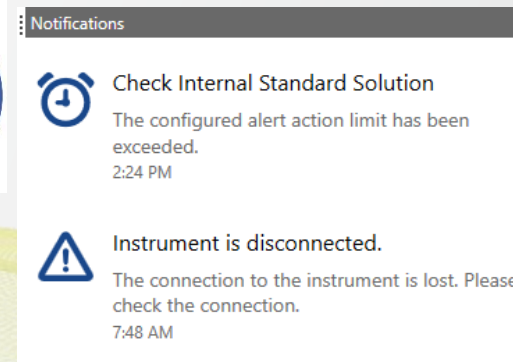
Single mode He-KED

Comprehensive interference removal

Intuitive Workflows with Qtegra ISDS Software

# Reliable, robust trace elemental analysis

## Removing the challenges of complex sample analysis



- Prevents decline in instrument performance due to complex samples using **Argon Gas Dilution.**

- Proactive planning of key maintenance helps optimize the instrument uptime and prevents unwanted interruptions.

- Qtegra ISDS Software workflows reduce complexity and save time.
- Features support laboratories to make decisions faster and be more agile.

# Challenges associated with diverse matrix and complex samples



**Instrumental drift from matrix deposition on ICP-MS interface**



**Impromptu cleaning that interrupts sample analysis**



**Need to perform offline dilution that can be prone to contamination and dilution error**





# Reducing complexity for challenging sample analysis

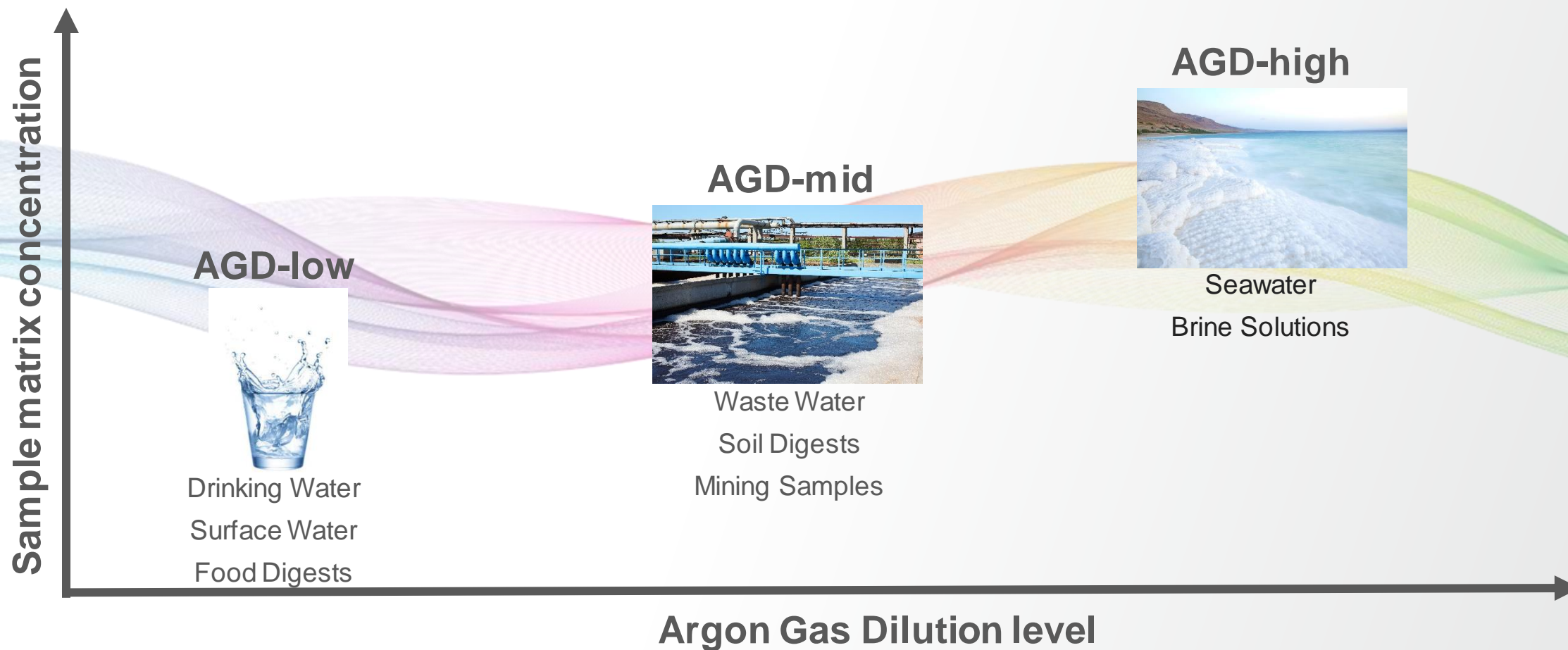
Integrated and optimized **Argon Gas Dilution** for any sample matrix

Sample matrices	% TDS content [%]	Recommended dilution level
Drinking Water and Surface Water	< 0.5	Low
Food Digests	0.5 – 1.0	
Wastewaters	< 1.0	Mid
Soil digests, geological, and mining samples	< 1.0	
Brackish waters, fracking flowback solutions	< 1.5	
Brackish waters, sea water, brine solutions	< 3.0	High
Highly concentrated brine solutions	> 4.0	

Achieving robustness and improving productivity every day!

# Reducing complexity for challenging sample analysis

Integrated and optimized **Argon Gas Dilution** for any sample matrix





# Reducing complexity for challenging sample analysis

Integrated and optimized **Argon Gas Dilution** for any sample matrix

Sample introduction system component	Dilution level		
	Low	Mid	High
Glass concentric nebulizer	✓	✓	✗
Baffled cyclonic spray chamber	✓	✓	✓
2.5 mm i.d. quartz injector	✓	✓	✓
Torch (quartz, Thermo Scientific™ PLUS Torch)	✓	✓	✓
Skimmer cone insert	High matrix		
Humidifier			✓
PFA-ST microflow nebulizer			✓

Identifier	Δ	Dwell time (s)	Measurement mode	Resolution
7Li (KED AGD hig		0.1	KED AGD high	Normal
23Na (KED AGD		0.1	KED AGD high	High
27Al (KED AGD h		0.1	KED AGD high	Normal
45Sc (KED AGD		0.1	KED AGD high	Normal
51V (KED AGD hi		0.1	KED AGD high	Normal
52Cr (KED AGD		0.1	KED AGD low	Normal
55Mn (KED AGD		0.1	KED AGD mid	Normal
56Fe (KED AGD		0.1	KED	Normal
59Co (KED AGD		0.1	STD AGD high	Normal
63Cu (KED AGD		0.1	STD AGD low	Normal
66Zn (KED AGD		0.1	STD AGD mid	Normal
			STD	Normal
			KED AGD high	Normal

# Reducing complexity for challenging sample analysis

Sample matrices	Typical TDS level	Internal standard recovery [%]							
		<sup>45</sup> Sc	<sup>73</sup> Ge	<sup>89</sup> Y	<sup>103</sup> Rh	<sup>115</sup> In	<sup>175</sup> Lu	<sup>193</sup> Ir	<sup>205</sup> Tl
Food digests <sup>1</sup>	0.5 to 1%	98 ± 6	N/A	99 ± 5	94 ± 4	N/A	100 ± 2	N/A	97 ± 6
Drinking water <sup>2</sup>	0.4 %	105 ± 5	102 ± 5	N/A	N/A	102 ± 4	N/A	101 ± 4	N/A
Surface water <sup>3</sup> Wastewater <sup>3</sup>	0.4 to 1%	101 ± 5	N/A	97 ± 3	103 ± 5	N/A	103 ± 5	N/A	103 ± 5
Brackish water <sup>3</sup>	0.75%	107 ± 7	N/A	105 ± 6	104 ± 7	N/A	97 ± 5	N/A	91 ± 5
Saline water <sup>3</sup>	1.6%	94 ± 7	N/A	89 ± 8	91 ± 7	N/A	92 ± 7	N/A	85 ± 4
Brine <sup>4</sup>	[ 2.5% m/m]	101 ± 6	N/A	105 ± 6	101 ± 4	N/A	98 ± 5	N/A	N/A

# Reducing complexity in instrument set-up

New **EasyClick Compact (ECC)** peristaltic pump design to support ease of use in daily operation

- Peristaltic pump is an integral part of the sample introduction system
- Tension of arms dictates the flow
- Different users adjust tension differently
- A challenge for many laboratories is adjusting the tension for the right, consistent flow





# Reducing complexity in instrument set-up

New **EasyClick Compact (ECC)** peristaltic pump design to support ease of use in daily operation



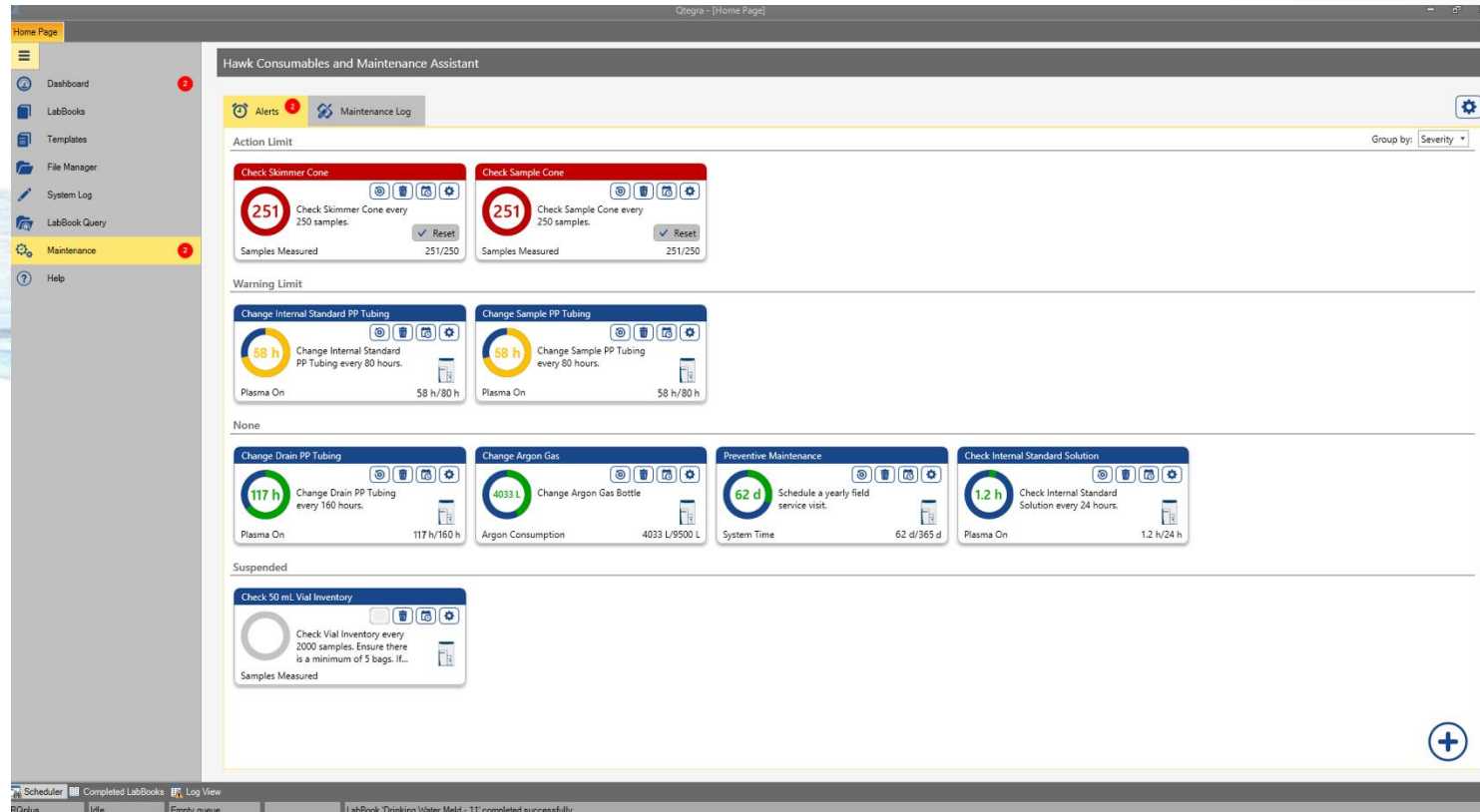
- A unique design with automatic tensioning which mitigates these challenges and extends pump tubing lifetime.
- A clever pop out design provides easy access to the arm for exchanging or repositioning the tubing, regardless of the size of your hands.

# Operational inefficiencies cause delays

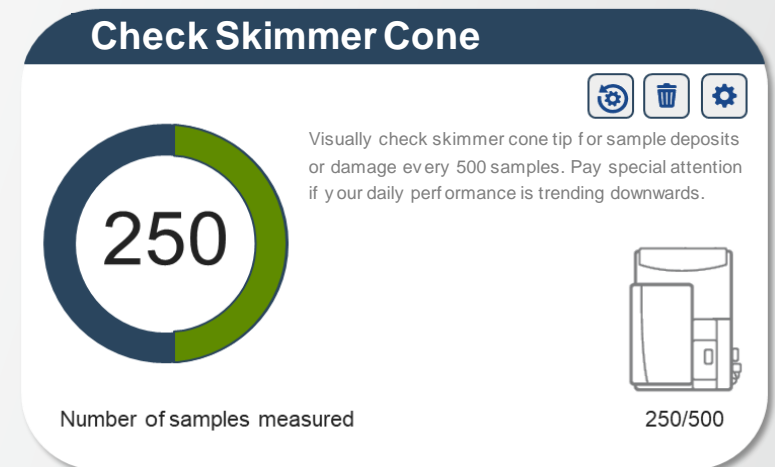
- Unplanned downtime can cause significant disruptions in a lab
- Deviations in expected performance can be equally disruptive
- It's not always obvious when or what maintenance should be performed to keep the system running smoothly



# Reducing operational inefficiencies



The Thermo Scientific Hawk™ Consumables and Maintenance Assistant supports the laboratory by keeping track and sending notifications (through Alerts) when important maintenance activities should be performed.





# Reducing operational inefficiencies

## Hawk Consumables and Maintenance Assistant

### Dashboard notifications of trigger Alerts

The screenshot displays the iCAP RQplus dashboard interface. On the left, a sidebar menu includes options like Dashboard, LabBooks, Templates, File Manager, System Log, LabBook Query, Maintenance, and Help. The main dashboard area is titled 'Dashboard - RQplus' and features a 'Ready' status indicator. A central panel shows a list of system parameters with green checkmarks, including Torch Holder, Interface Temperature, Cooling Water Flow, Door Lock, Water Valve, Argon Pressure, Cool Gas Flow, Exhaust Flow, Bubble Sensor, and Vacuum. A large image of the iCAP RQplus instrument is shown in the center, with the word 'Connected' below it. On the right side of the dashboard, there is a 'Gas Flow / Plasma State' table and a 'Notifications' panel. The 'Notifications' panel is highlighted with a dashed blue box and contains two alerts: 'Check Sample Cone' and 'Check Skimmer Cone', both indicating that the configured alert action limit has been exceeded at 1:39 PM.

Interlocks	iCAP RQplus	Gas Flow / Plasma State
Torch Holder	✓	Plasma On
Interface Temperature	✓	Plasma Power 1,549 W
Cooling Water Flow	✓	Nebulizer Gas Flow 1.0 l/min
Door Lock	✓	Nebulizer Back Pressure 3 mbar
Water Valve	✓	Auxiliary Gas Flow 0.8 l/min
Argon Pressure	✓	Additional Gas Flow 1 0 %
Cool Gas Flow	✓	Additional Gas Flow 2 0 %
Exhaust Flow	✓	Cool Gas Flow 13.9 l/min
Bubble Sensor	✓	CCT 1 Gas Flow 4 ml/min
Vacuum	✓	CCT 2 Gas Flow 0 ml/min
		Peristaltic Pump Speed 0 rpm

**Notifications**

- Check Sample Cone**  
The configured alert action limit has been exceeded.  
1:39 PM
- Check Skimmer Cone**  
The configured alert action limit has been exceeded.  
1:39 PM

Action limit notifications can only be cleared from this view by resetting the alert.

Warning and action notifications can be set to appear in the Notification (bottom right) section of the Dashboard.



# Instrument performance monitoring

Flexibility to use the alerts and performance monitoring according to the needs of the laboratory

Simply activate the default alerts provided to start leveraging the features with minimal effort.

Edit the alerts as you go according to the pace of your work and the needs of the laboratory

In a well-established testing laboratory, tailor the alerts to your specific SOPs to avoid missing or falling behind with maintenance

Leverage access control that enables lab managers to edit and create new alerts while letting operators focus on performing maintenance tasks

Use the alerts to manage general lab activities such as checking consumable inventory





## Simplified set-up and operation with accurate results

- Stability required to enable long-term analysis of varying matrices without drift, QC failures, or the need to re-run samples.
- Proactive monitoring of consumables and instrument performance prevents unplanned downtime or deviations in expected performance, making the laboratory more productive.
- Simplified workflows enable consistent and efficient analysis for all operators to ensure your laboratory meets internal or external regulatory requirements.

# Power your productivity with the Thermo Scientific iSC-65 autosampler

Automation that accelerates elemental sample throughput with total confidence



# The iSC-65 autosampler: Your workflow's perfect partner

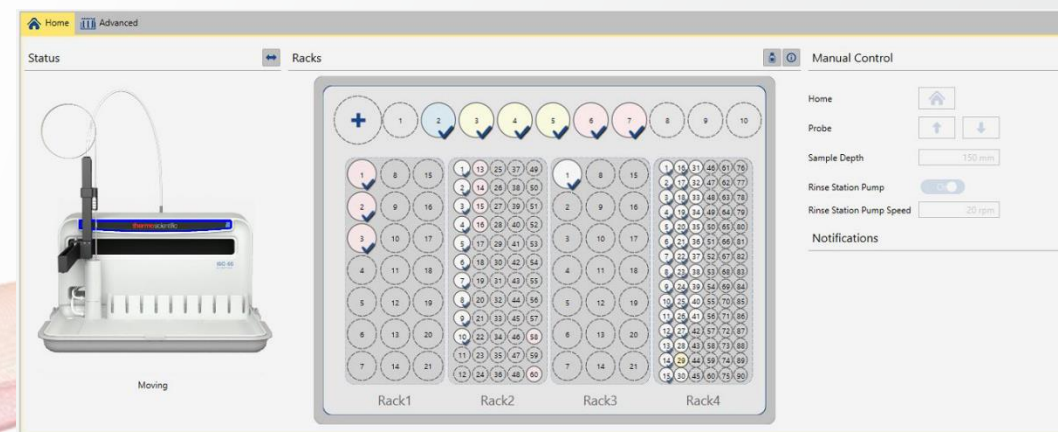


- Full support of the range of tube racks required current workflows.
- Variable sample depth on a per vial basis.
- A capped single feed rinse station to ensure minimal contamination.
- Dedicated dual channel rinse pump with cartridge mounted chemical resistant tubing.



# Thermo Scientific iSC-65 autosampler – key features

## Hardware and software advance in sample introduction



- Obstruction detection in all three axes
- Ethernet connectivity
- Easier operation through full integration and unique features within Qtegra ISDS Software
- LED status feedback on the complete workflow
  - Green (solid) – no action required, system is online and ready to run
  - Blue (intermittent) – analysis in progress
  - Red (solid) – action required; operation unsuccessful

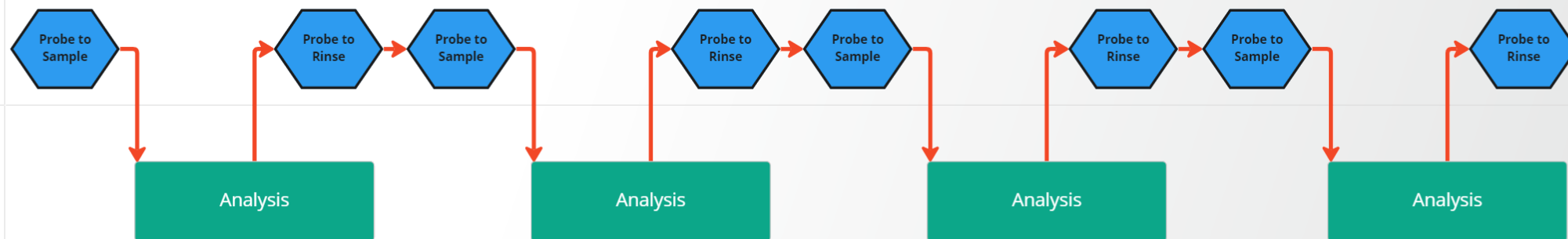
# Your workflow's perfect partner

The screenshot displays the software interface for the iCAP PRO XPS with iSC-65. The interface includes a dashboard with status indicators for the iCAP PRO (Plasma on) and iSC-65 (Connected). A central section shows a 3D model of the instrument with a 'Ready' status. To the right, a 'Racks' section features a grid of 60 numbered positions (1-60) for sample racks, with labels for 'Quality Control', 'Sample Rack 1', 'Sample Rack 2', and 'Sample Rack 3'. A 'Manual Control' panel on the right includes buttons for 'Home', 'Probe', 'Sample Depth' (set to 150 mm), 'Rinse Station Pump' (set to Off), and 'Rinse Station Pump Speed' (set to 100 rpm). A 'Notifications' section is also present. The interface is annotated with several red callout boxes:

- Advanced controls: e.g. calibration** (pointing to the top navigation area)
- Connectivity indicator** (pointing to the iSC-65 status box)
- Hardware LED synchronized** (pointing to the instrument model)
- Real time display of probe position** (pointing to the 'Racks' grid)
- Rack controls: definition, probe direction, etc.** (pointing to the 'Racks' grid)
- User definable rack names** (pointing to the 'Quality Control' label)
- Full manual control including Pump speed** (pointing to the 'Manual Control' panel)
- Clear language user facing notifications** (pointing to the 'Notifications' section)

# Improved sample throughput with Step Ahead analysis on the iSC-65 autosampler

Gain up to 25% more productivity relative to traditional sampling









# Sustainability: an increasing demand for laboratories



Accountability  
Consistency  
Transparency



 <span style="float: right;">EU</span>	
<b>Thermo Scientific iCAP RQplus ICP-MS</b>	
Bremen, Germany SKU BRE731344A	
Environmental Impact Scale Decreasing Environmental Impact <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>10</span> </div>	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	
Manufacturing Impact Reduction	1.0
Renewable Energy Use	Yes
Responsible Chemical Management	5.0
Shipping Impact	1.0
Product Content	10.0
Packaging Content	5.0
<b>User Impact</b>	
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)	8.6
Water Consumption (liters/day)	N/A
Product Lifetime	5.0
<b>End of Life</b>	
Packaging	4.2
Product	1.0
<b>Innovation</b>	
Innovative Practices	-1.0
<b>Environmental Impact Factor: 39.8</b>	
Label Valid Through: February 2025	
	act.mygreenlab.org

 <span style="float: right;">EU</span>	
<b>Thermo Scientific ISC-65 Autosampler</b>	
Shanghai, China SKU BRE0030065	
Environmental Impact Scale Decreasing Environmental Impact <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>10</span> </div>	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	
Manufacturing Impact Reduction	1.0
Renewable Energy Use	No
Responsible Chemical Management	1.0
Shipping Impact	10.0
Product Content	10.0
Packaging Content	5.0
<b>User Impact</b>	
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)	0.9
Water Consumption (liters/day)	N/A
Product Lifetime	1.0
<b>End of Life</b>	
Packaging	5.0
Product	1.0
<b>Environmental Impact Factor: 35.0</b>	
Label Valid Through: February 2025	
	act.mygreenlab.org

# iCAP RQplus ICP-MS iSC-65 Autosampler Applications



 The world leader in serving science

# New solutions to power through complex samples

New Hawk Consumables and Maintenance Assistant

New look, providing optical similarity to the Thermo Scientific™ iCAP™ PRO Series ICP-OES

Improved Argon Gas Dilution available on all models

New peristaltic pump designed for easy daily operation

New iSC-65 autosampler





# How to test and demonstrate robustness?



Ignite plasma and stabilize for 10-15 mins

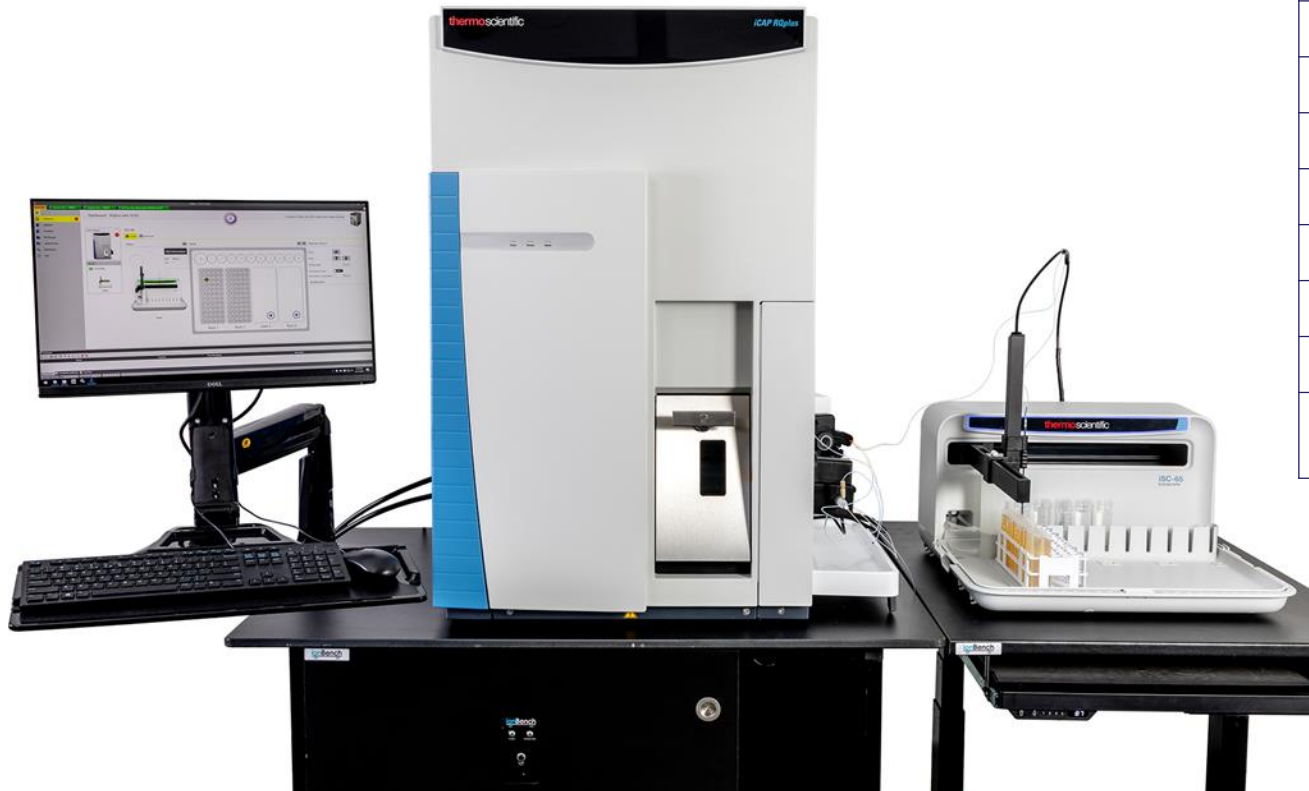
Acquire performance report

Condition cones

Start measurement

***More than 10,000 samples were analyzed for testing and application development of the iCAP RQplus ICP-MS***

# Experimental set-up



Parameter	Value
Nebulizer	Micromist nebulizer ( $400 \mu\text{L}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ )
Interface cones	Ni – tipped sample and Skimmer
Skimmer cone Insert	High matrix
Spray chamber	Cyclonic quartz
Injector	Quartz, 2.5 mm ID
Torch	Quartz torch
RF power (W)	1550
Number of replicates	3
Spray chamber temp ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	2.7
KED settings (gas flow rate in $\text{mL}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ )	4.8 (with a 3V kinetic energy barrier)

- AGD dilution levels were selected depending on the application
- Step-ahead function was applied in all measurements

# Application overview



- Analysis of water samples

## **Complexity:**

- ✓ Variable and potentially high matrix load
- ✓ Comprehensive QC protocols in regulated methods
  - ✓ Ultra-trace detection requirements.



- Analysis of food & beverages

## **Complexity:**

- ✓ Variety and complexity of sample matrices (e.g., fats, oils, sugars, organics)
  - ✓ Industry standards
- ✓ From ultra-trace to percent level QC analysis



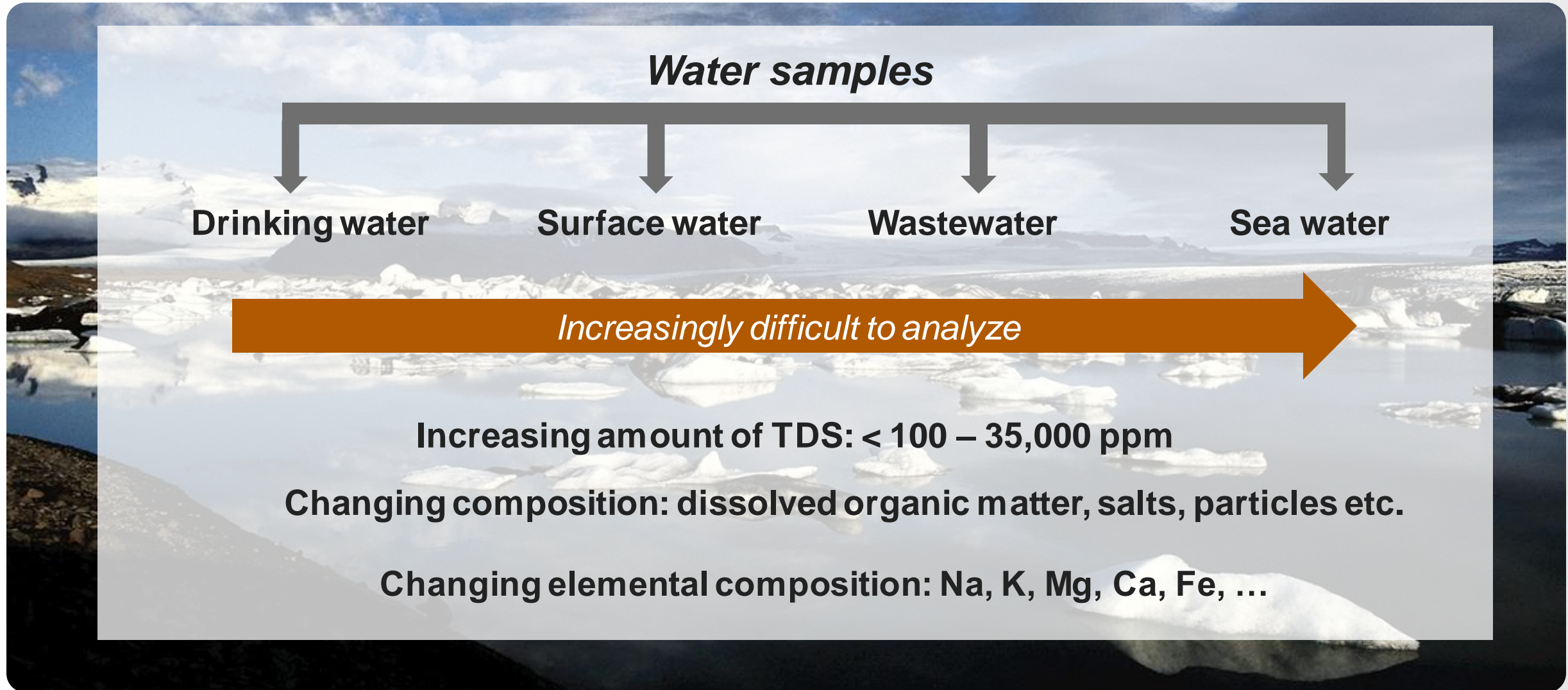
- Analysis of brines, refinery products, high purity chemicals

## **Complexity:**

- ✓ Highly demanding matrix type
- ✓ Moderate sample load, but quick and reliable turnover required



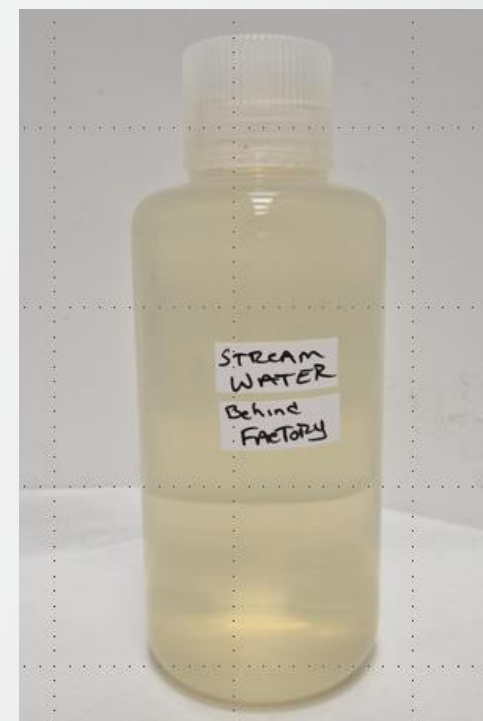
# Water analysis using ICP-MS



# Argon Gas Dilution

- Tuning of the dilution level is achieved by variation of nebulizer gas flow and the additional gas flow
- As a consequence of the dilution, a lower oxide level is achieved, indicating a more robust plasma
- Tuning all dilution levels is fully automated within the Qtegra ISDS software

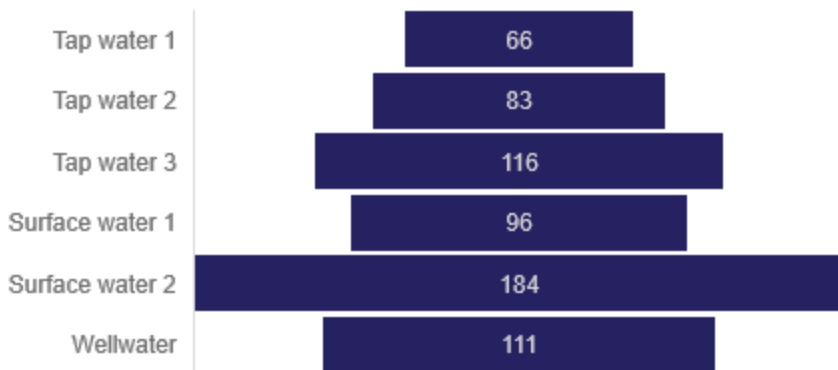
Sample matrices	% TDS Content [%]	Dilution level
Drinking water and surface water	< 0.5	Low
Food digests	0.5 – 1.0	
Wastewaters	< 1.0	Mid
Soil digests, geological & mining samples	< 1.0	
Brackish waters, fracking flowback solutions	< 1.5	
Brackish waters, sea water, brine solutions	< 3.0	High
Highly concentrated brine solutions	> 4.0	



# Water samples analyzed



Total amount of major elements in mg·L<sup>-1</sup>



Item	Place	Category	Note
Tap water 1	Bremen West	Tap water	-
Tap water 2	Bremen South	Tap water	-
Tap water 3	Bremen North	Tap water	-
Surface water 1	Bremen South	Lake	Sampling location is close to a major highway
Surface water 2	Bremen North	Lake	Sampling location is close to an area with heavy traffic
Well water	Bremen North	Well water	Ground water sample, no additional treatment
SLRS-5	Ottawa	River	CRM

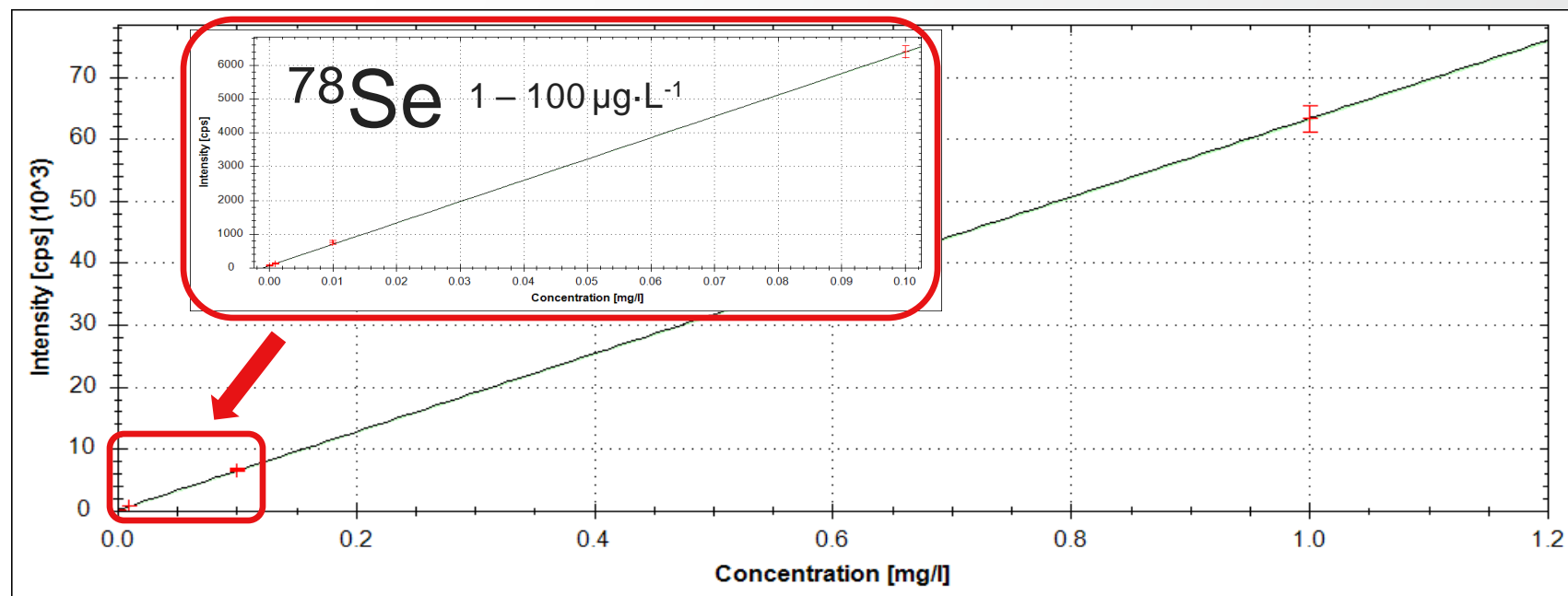
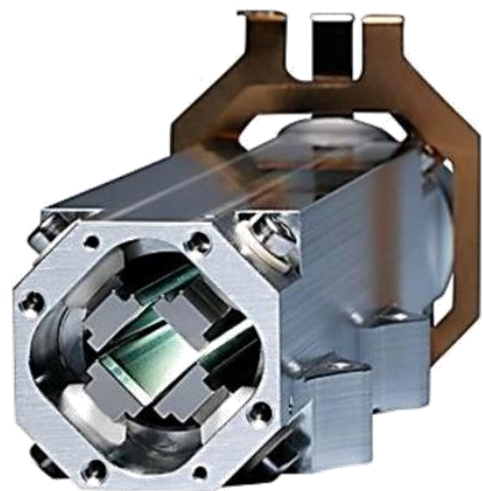


# Additional advantage of iCAP RQplus for ISO 17294

- **Single analysis mode using He KED** achieved the excellent interference removal and detection at low concentrations (below  $1 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ) with high ratio of signal/background.

Polyatomic interference of selenium

Symbol	Mass	Abundance	Interferences
74Se	73.9225	0.90	74Ge(36.500%); 16O
76Se	75.9192	9.00	76Ge(7.800%); 36Ar ..
77Se	76.9199	7.60	40Ar + 37Cl(24.133%)
78Se	77.9173	23.60	78Kr(0.350%); 14N +
80Se	79.9165	49.70	80Kr(2.250%); 40Ar +
82Se	81.9167	9.20	82Kr(11.600%); 1H +



# Accuracy analysis results river water CRM SLRS-5

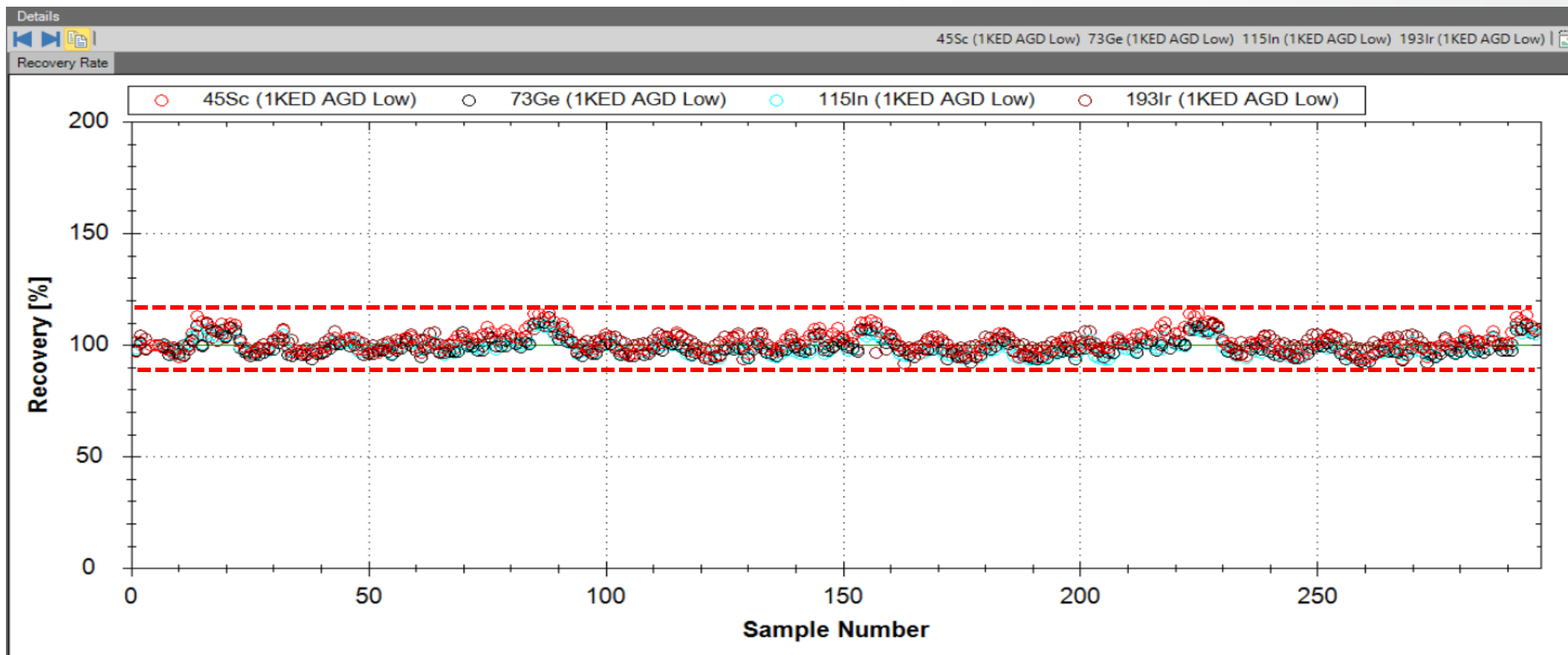
All CRM values, measured, and result concentrations are in  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$

	CRM values	Measured	Recovery (%)	Result
Al	49.5	50.6	102%	✓
Sb	0.3	0.35	117%	✓
As	0.413	0.478	116%	✓
Ba	14.0	15.2	109%	✓
Cr	0.208	0.216	104%	✓
Co	0.05	0.052	104%	✓
Cu	17.4	18.7	107%	✓
Fe	91.2	91.3	100%	✓
Pb	0.081	0.077	95%	✓
Mn	4.33	4.64	107%	✓

	CRM values	Measured	Recovery (%)	Result
Mo	0.27	0.27	100%	✓
Ni	0.476	0.525	110%	✓
Sr	53.6	55.9	104%	✓
U	0.093	0.092	99%	✓
V	0.317	0.304	96%	✓
Zn	0.845	0.960	114%	✓
Na	5,380	4,890	91%	✓
Mg	2,540	2,450	96%	✓
K	839	823	98%	✓
Ca	10,500	9,900	94%	✓

# Robustness: internal standard recovery

- Daily sample load was approximately 300 samples per day
- Total analysis time approximately 12 hours






# Hawk: instrument health monitoring software

Example: Check sample cone and peristaltic pump tubing


## Start of analysis: Day 1

**Check Skimmer Cone**



0


Check Skimmer Cone every  
1000 samples.



Samples Measured


0/1000

**Change Sample PP Tubing**



0 s

Change Sample PP Tubing  
every 50 hours.



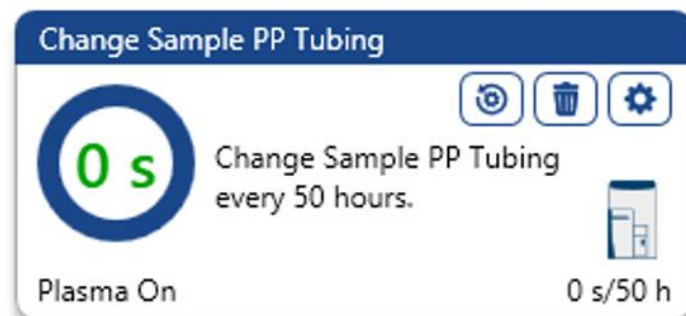
Plasma On

0 s/50 h

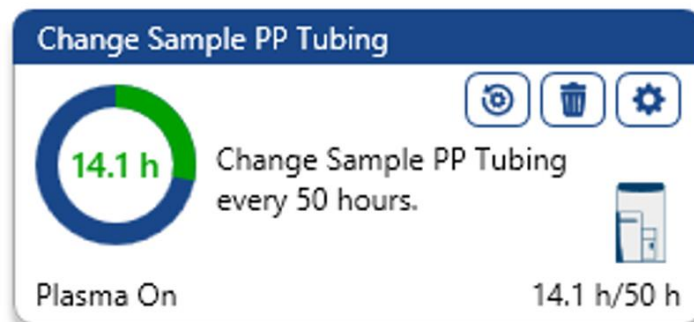
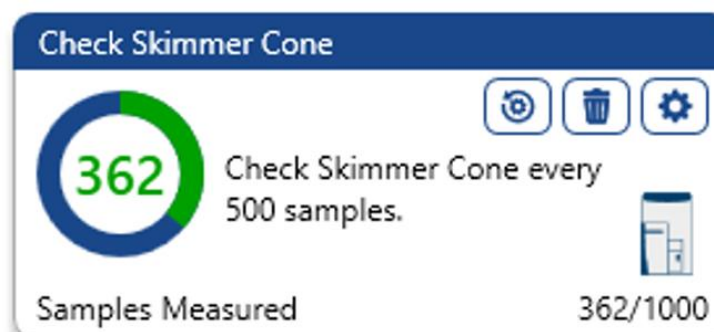
# Hawk: Instrument health monitoring software

Example: Check Sample cone and peristaltic pump tubing

Start of analysis: Day 1



Day 2



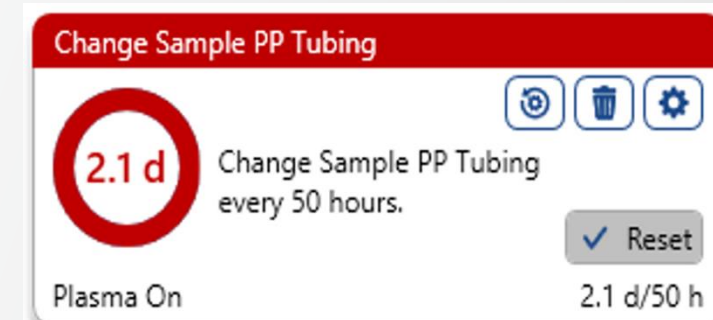
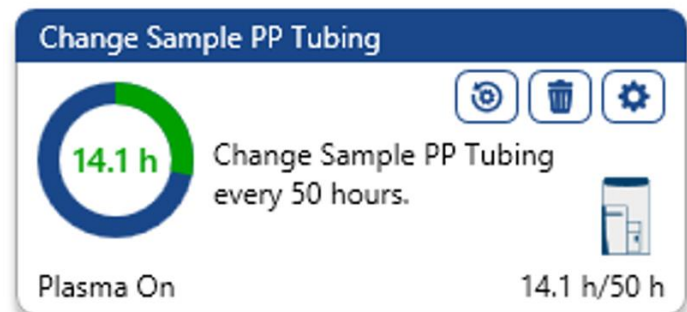
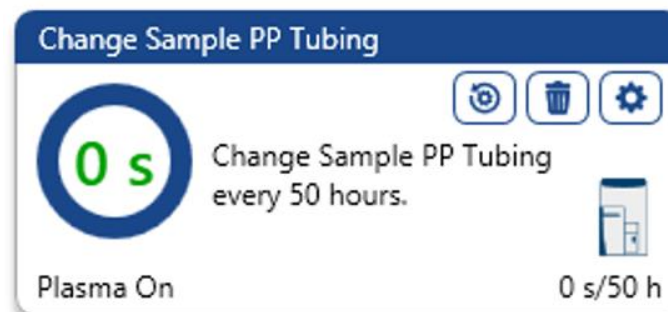
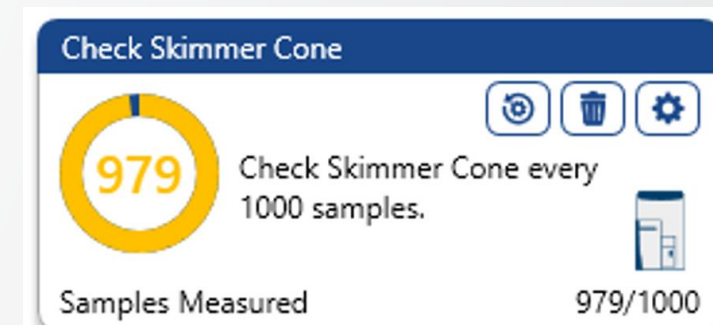
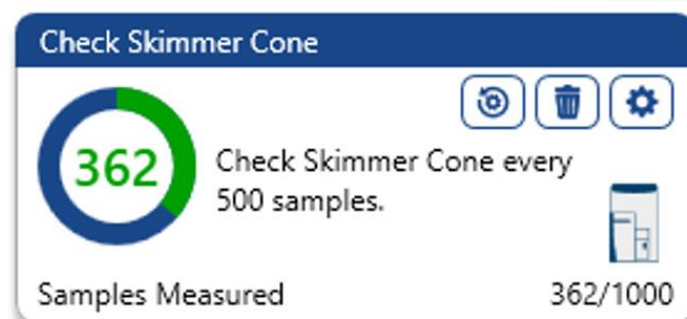
# Hawk: Instrument health monitoring software

Example: Check Skimmer cone and peristaltic pump tubing

Start of analysis: Day 1

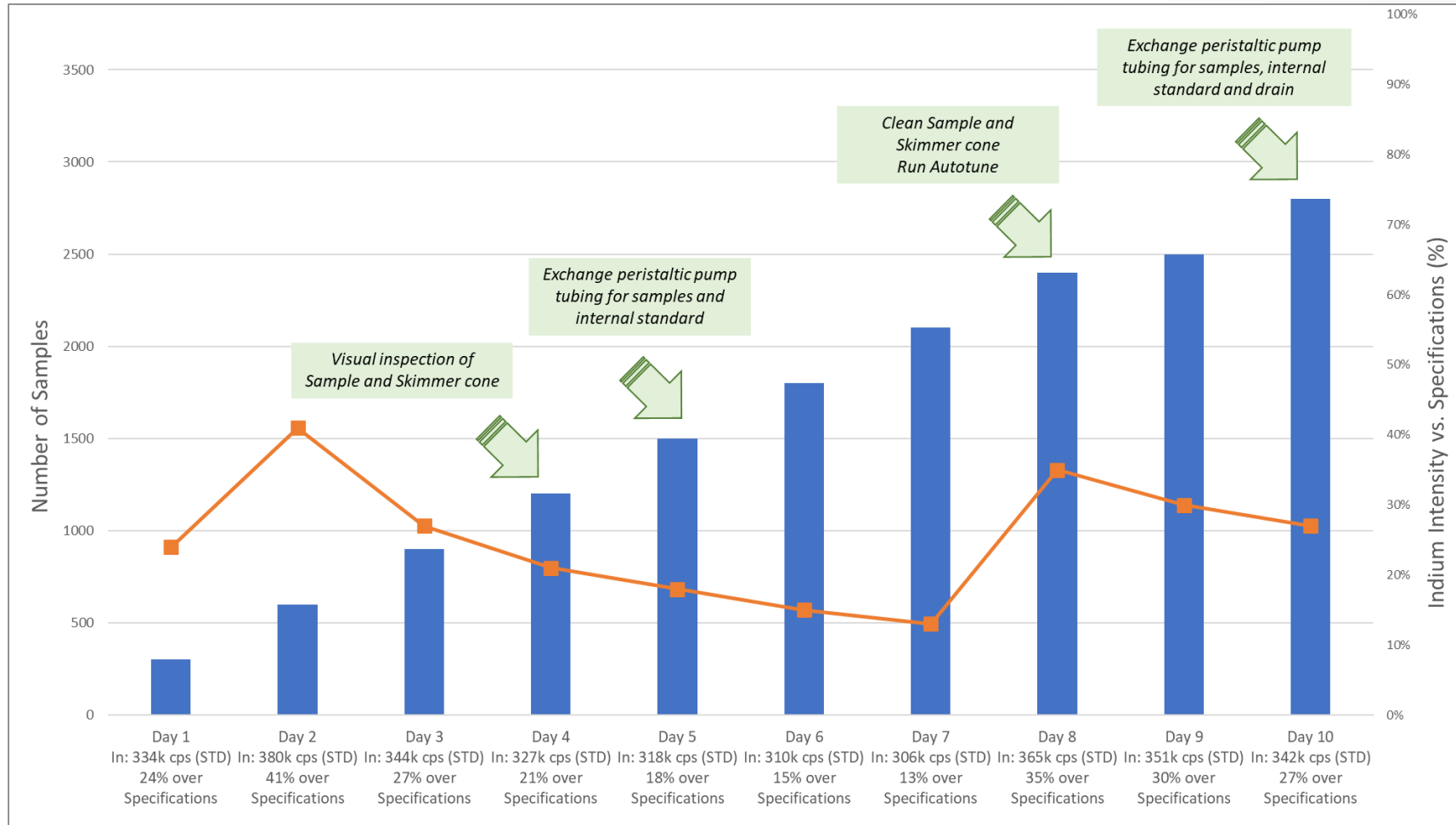
Day 2

Day 4



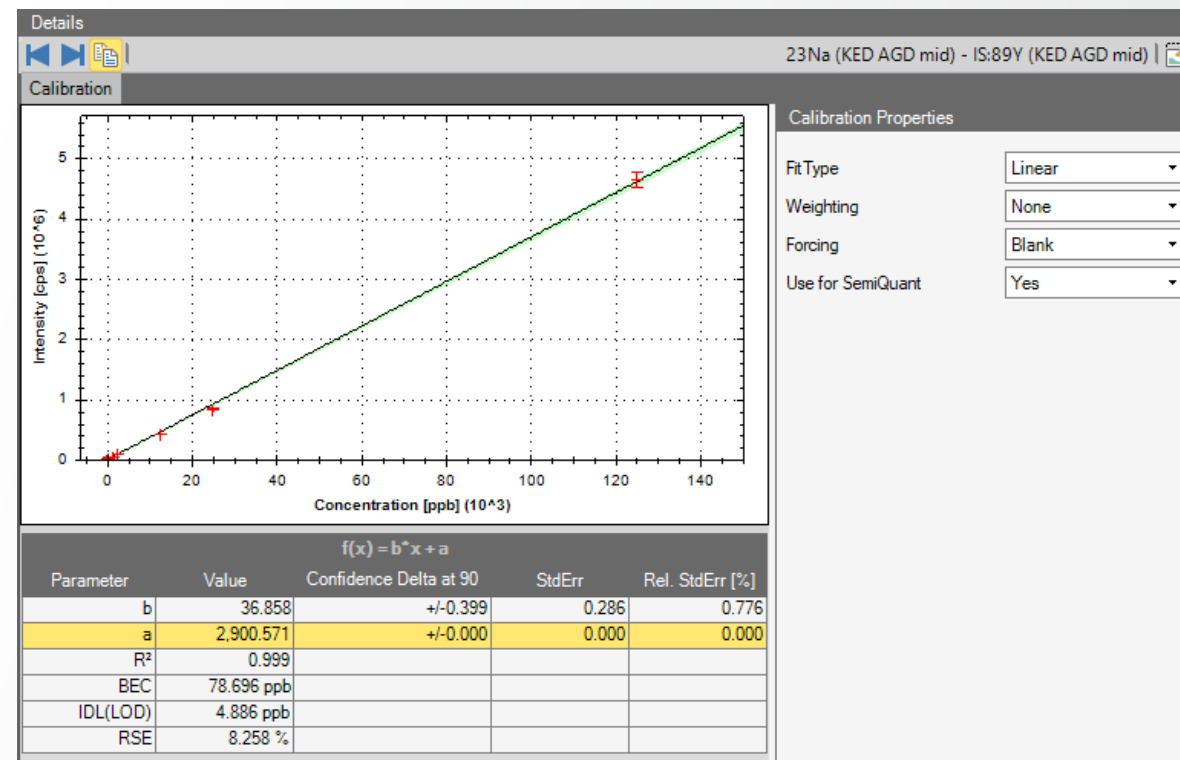
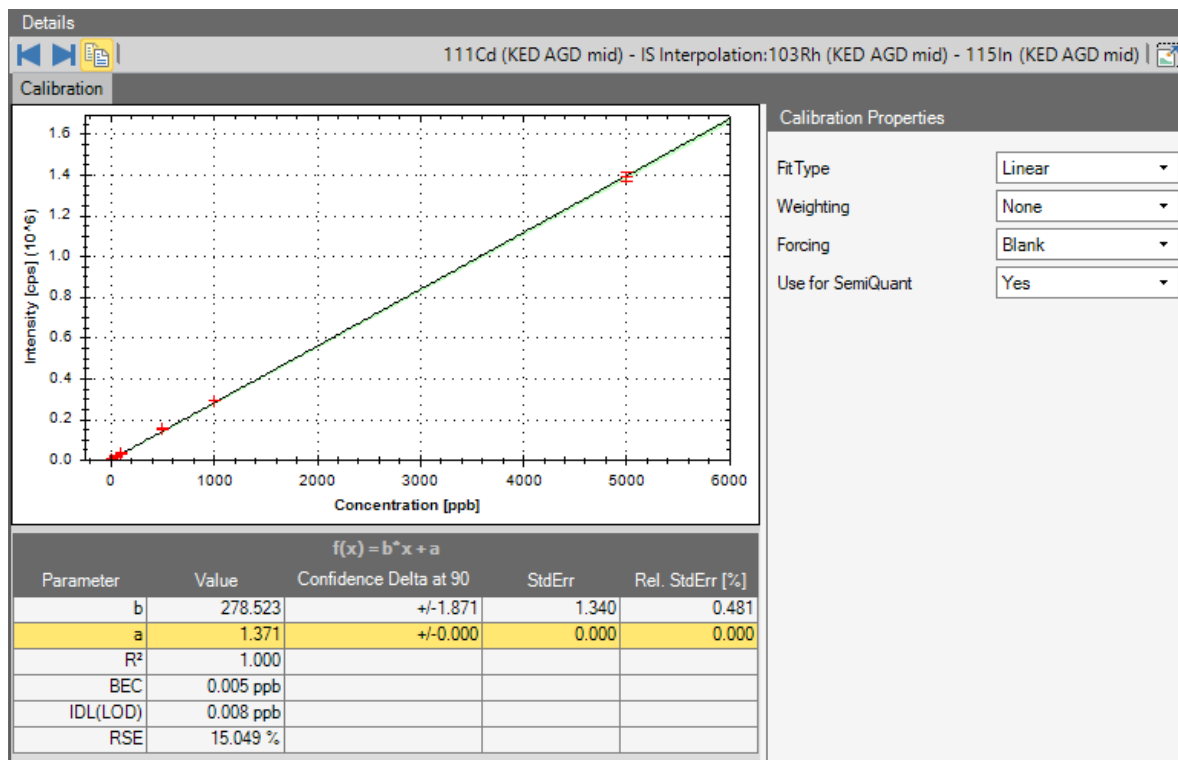


# Reliable hardware: performance without tuning for 10 days



- Total 2800 sample analysis for 10 days.
- Stable and reliable hardware: autotune was running only day 1 and day 8.
- $^{115}\text{In}$  (Tune solution) intensity achieved 115% to 140% of specification.

# Linear dynamic range vs. analytical range



- The detector of the iCAP RQplus ICP-MS offers 10 orders of magnitude linear dynamic range
- The analytical range can be much larger, depending on the calibrated range for each analyte
  - Argon Gas Dilution is a way to extend calibration ranges to % levels
  - Adjustable resolution allows for analyte specific signal attenuation

# Food samples



	Group no.	Description	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5
<b>Day 1</b>	1	Carbohydrate and protein rich	Rice	Cereal	Couscous	Flour	Fish (sardines)
<b>Day 2</b>	2	Vegetables and fruits	Puree-1	Puree-2	Tomato	Spinach	Carrot
<b>Day 3</b>	3	Spices	Mustard	Pepper	Coriander	Basil	Cinnamon
<b>Day 4</b>	4	Milk and high fat	Infant formula	Milk powder	Biscuits	Cocoa powder	Drinking chocolate
<b>Day 5</b>	5	Beverages	Apple juice	Orange drink	Cola	Flavoured water	Energy drink
<b>Days 6 to 9 all samples randomly mixed together.</b>							



# Samples and preparation

- Six reference materials
  - SRM 1568b Rice flour
  - DORM-3 Fish
  - NIST 2383a baby food
  - TYG082 Infant formula
  - BCR-063 Milk
  - LGC-7103 Biscuit
- 20 food and beverage samples
  - Dry (rice, cinnamon, etc.) and wet (tomato, sauce, etc.) samples
  - Beverages (juice, water, etc.)

Dry sample  
0.5 g

Wet sample  
2.0 g

Added 6 mL aqua regia

Microwave digestion 30 min  
at 210 °C

Make up 50 mL

# Excellent detection: trace of the toxic elements

Analyte	R <sup>2</sup>	LOD	MLOQ in beverage samples, DF = 10	MLOQ in wet food samples, DF = 25	MLOQ in beverage dry food samples, DF = 100
<sup>7</sup> Li	0.9994	0.193	5.8	14.5	57.9
<sup>9</sup> Be	0.9997	0.002	0.05	0.1	0.5
<sup>23</sup> Na	0.9995	0.002	0.1	0.1	0.5
<sup>24</sup> Mg	0.9999	0.001	0.02	0.05	0.2
<sup>27</sup> Al	0.9994	0.001	0.02	0.05	0.2
<sup>31</sup> P	0.9999	0.012	0.4	0.9	3.6
<sup>39</sup> K	0.9995	0.006	0.2	0.4	1.7
<sup>44</sup> Ca	0.9998	0.006	0.2	0.4	1.7
<sup>52</sup> Cr	0.9994	0.015	0.5	1.1	4.5
<sup>55</sup> Mn	0.9999	0.0004	0.01	0.03	0.1
<sup>57</sup> Fe	0.9994	0.0005	0.01	0.04	0.1
<sup>59</sup> Co	0.9999	0.004	0.1	0.3	1.2
<sup>60</sup> Ni	0.9998	0.013	0.4	1.0	4.0
<sup>65</sup> Cu	0.9994	0.032	1.0	2.4	9.6
<sup>66</sup> Zn	0.9998	0.133	4.0	9.9	39.8
<sup>75</sup> As*	0.9996	0.004	0.1	1.0	3.9
<sup>77</sup> Se*	0.9997	0.015	0.5	1.2	4.6

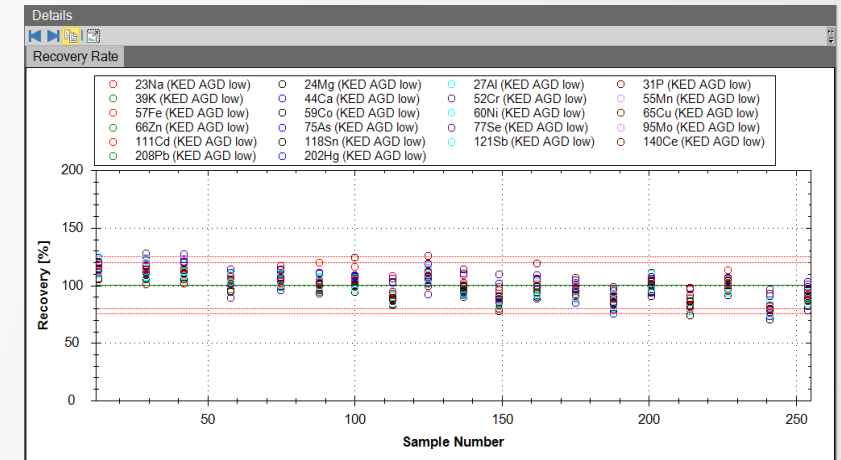
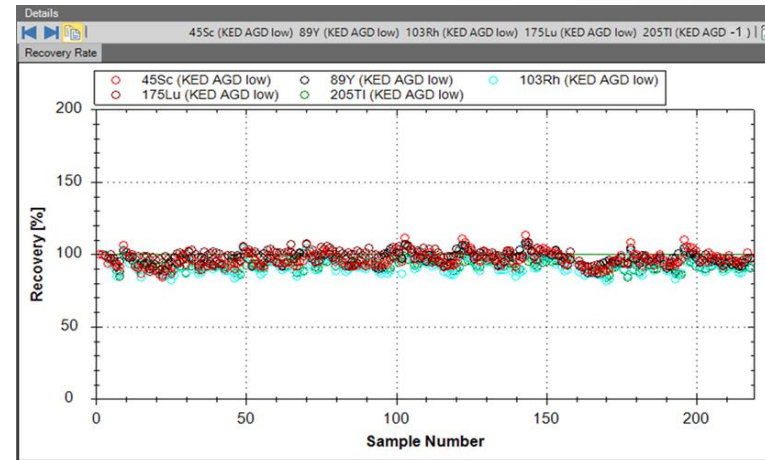
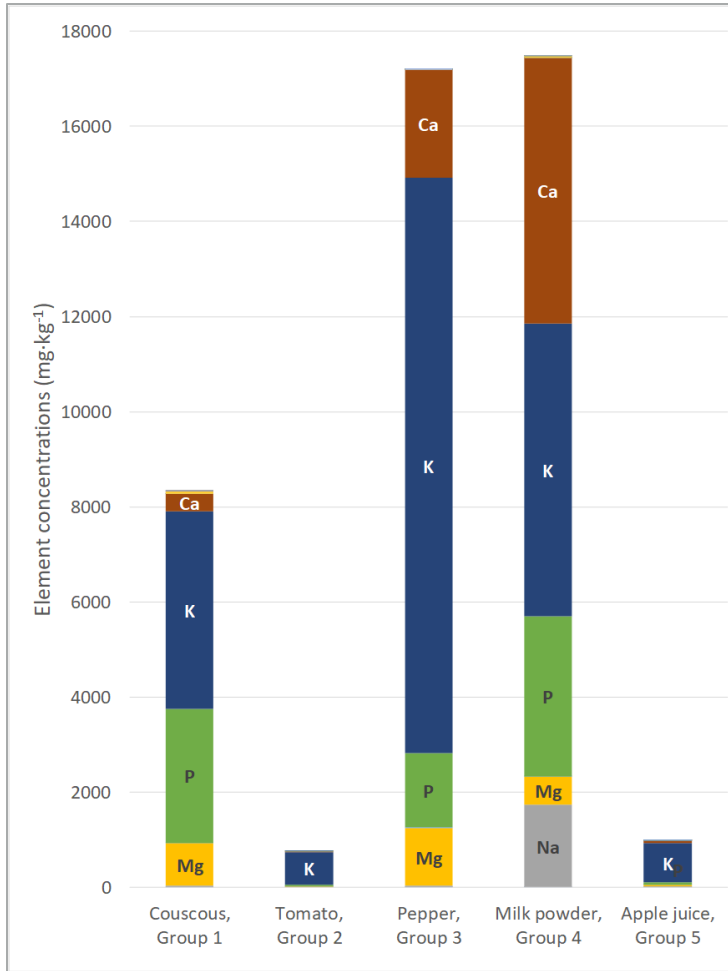
- Coefficient of determination (R<sup>2</sup>) achieved >0.9994
- All LODs are well below the maximum contamination level.
  - All result numbers are in µg·L<sup>-1</sup> (blue numbers are in mg·L<sup>-1</sup>)
  - LOD is from 3x STDEV of ten repeats of the blank
  - MLOQ is calculated as dilution factor (DF) x 3x IDL

# Accuracy analysis results using CRMs

Element	Biscuit CRM LGC-7103		TYG RM082 Infant Formula		NIST CRM 2383a Baby food composite	
	n = 40	Dilution factor = 100	n = 50	Dilution factor = 100	n = 16	Dilution factor = 25
	Certified value (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> )	Average recovery (%)	Certified value (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> )	Average recovery (%)	Certified value (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> )	Average recovery (%)
<sup>23</sup> Na	5010 ± 400	96 ± 7	1698 ± 29	93 ± 6	195 ± 29	94 ± 9
<sup>24</sup> Mg		92 ± 6	505 ± 7	92 ± 6	212.2 ± 4.0	106 ± 7
<sup>31</sup> P	900 ± 140	91 ± 5	2898 ± 60	90 ± 11	453 ± 11	90 ± 9
<sup>39</sup> K	1580 ± 170	97 ± 6	5408 ± 90	91 ± 6	2910 ± 220	102 ± 6
<sup>44</sup> Ca		-	5355 ± 77	95 ± 4	342.6 ± 5.0	102 ± 11
<sup>55</sup> Mn	5.49 ± 0.6	100 ± 8	0.623 ± 0.022	87 ± 11	0.963 ± 0.064	93 ± 5
<sup>57</sup> Fe	-	-	74.8 ± 1.4	94 ± 5	4.420 ± 0.51	104 ± 9
<sup>59</sup> Co	-	-	-	-	0.048 ± 0.005	100 ± 7
<sup>65</sup> Cu	-	-	3.69 ± 0.08	101 ± 5	0.758 ± 0.082	94 ± 6
<sup>66</sup> Zn	6.41 ± 0.99	113 ± 5	52.1 ± 0.9	115 ± 5	2.22 ± 0.18	88 ± 2
<sup>78</sup> Se	-	-	0.123 ± 0.007	104 ± 10	-	-

Item	Analysis result
SRM 1568b Rice flour	✓
LGC-7103 Biscuit	✓
BCR-063 Milk	✓
TYG082 Infant formula	✓
DORM-3 Fish	✓
NIST 2383a baby food	✓

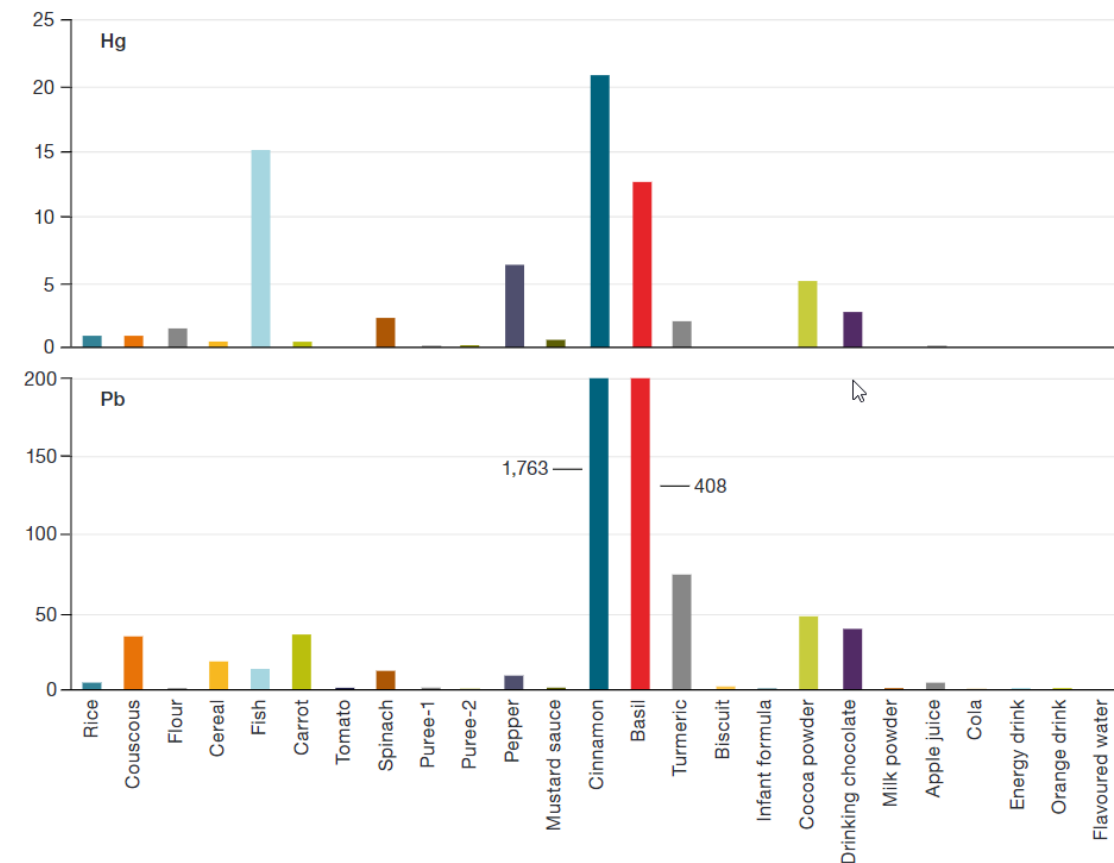
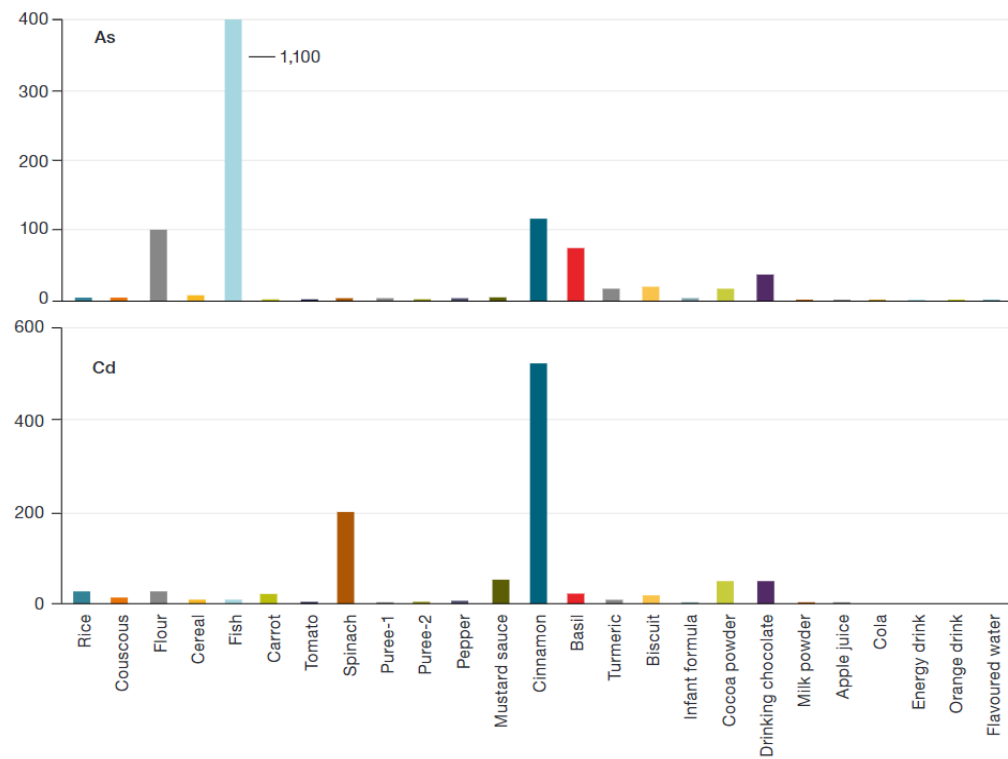
# Robust: containing the high amounts of alkali metal



- High amount of the nutrient elements with TDS >1 %
- Around 220 samples analyzed per day, 9 days in a row
- Consistent internal standard recovery achieved
- Quality control: CCV was measured every 20 unknown samples

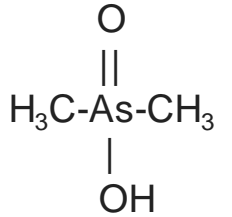
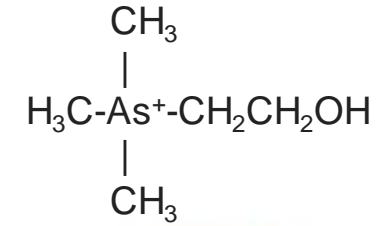
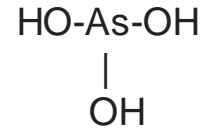


# Unknown food and beverage sample results



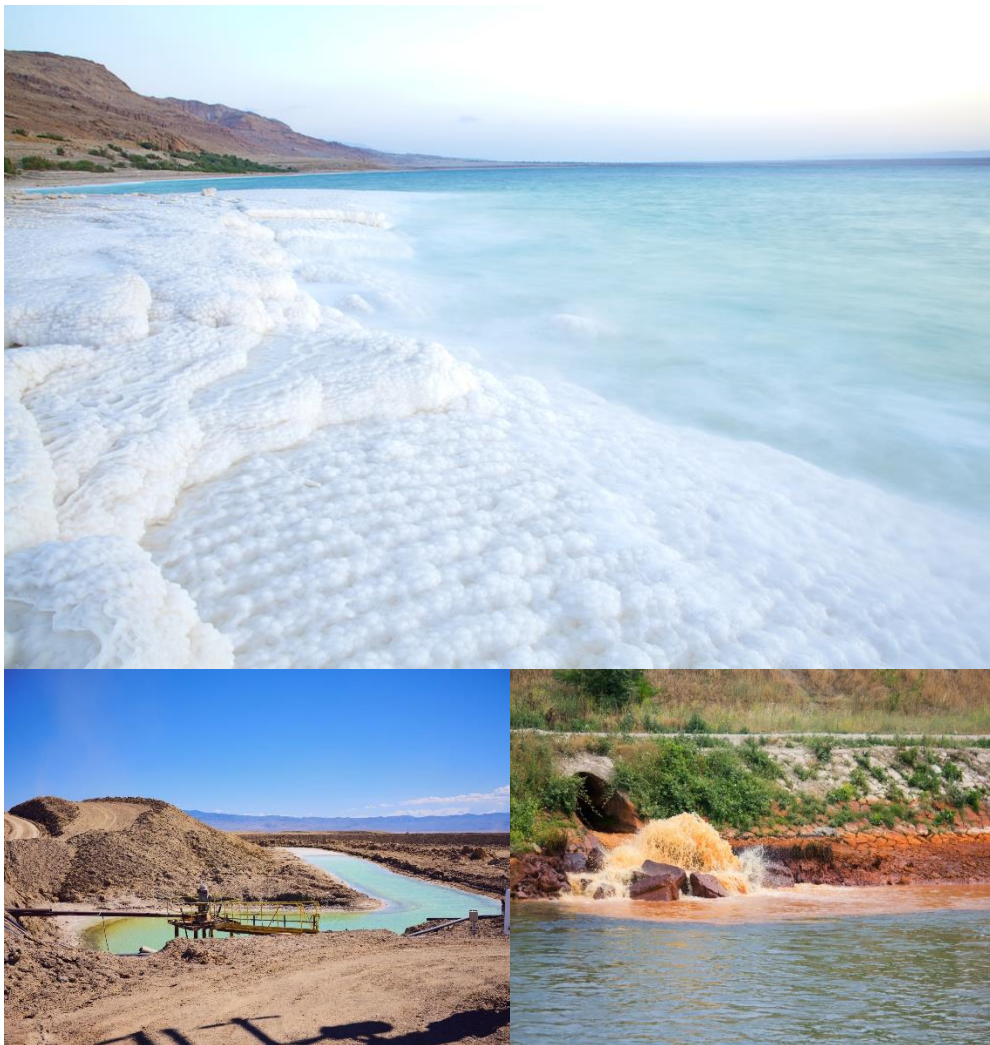
- Highest concentrations of cadmium, mercury, and lead were found in spices
- Fish samples contained slightly elevated levels of mercury and expectedly high levels of arsenic

# Unknown food and beverage sample results



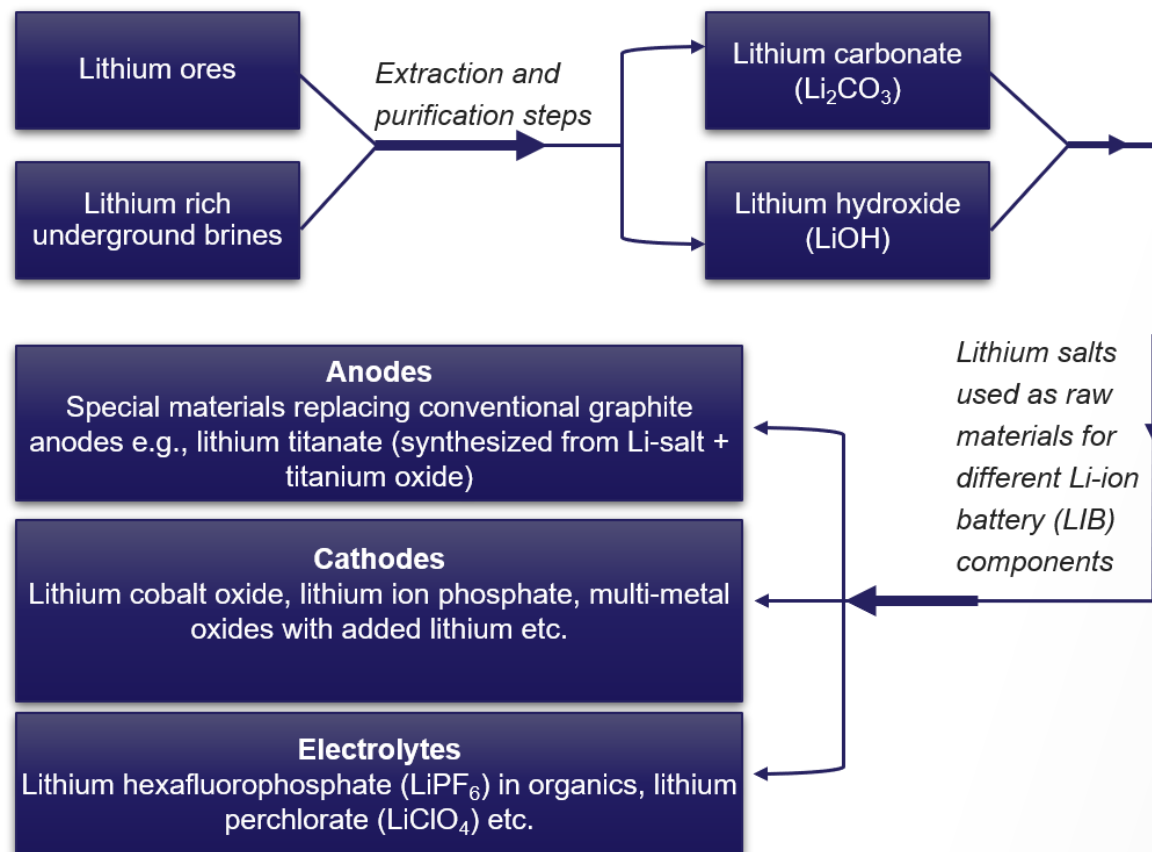
- Highest concentrations of cadmium, mercury and lead were found in spices
- Fish samples contained slightly elevated levels of mercury and expectedly high levels of arsenic
- IC-ICP-MS can be used for further investigation of the toxic levels of mercury and arsenic

# Analysis of high concentrated brine using ICP-MS



- Brine is a complex matrix comprising mostly NaCl at % level concentration.
- Seawater and brackish waters have high NaCl content and are often analyzed for trace elements.

# Analysis of high concentrated brine using ICP-MS



- Brine is an incredibly difficult matrix to analyze using ICP-MS
- It is a starting point (or important intermediate) in many industrial processes
- Brines can be rich sources of lithium but need to be explored carefully to avoid environmental contamination.
- Extraction of rare earth elements typically present at sub  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  can become viable



# Argon Gas Dilution

- Tuning of the dilution level is achieved by varying the nebulizer gas flow and additional gas flow.
- As a consequence of the dilution, a lower oxide level is achieved, resulting to a more robust plasma.
- Tuning all dilution levels is fully automated in the Qtegra ISDS Software.

Sample matrices	% TDS Content [%]	Dilution level
Drinking water and surface water	< 0.5	Low
Food digests	0.5 – 1.0	
Wastewaters	< 1.0	Mid
Soil digests, geological & mining samples	< 1.0	
Brackish waters, fracking flowback solutions	< 1.5	High
<b>Brackish waters, sea water, brine solutions</b>	<b>&lt; 3.0</b>	
<b>Highly concentrated brine solutions</b>	<b>&gt; 4.0</b>	

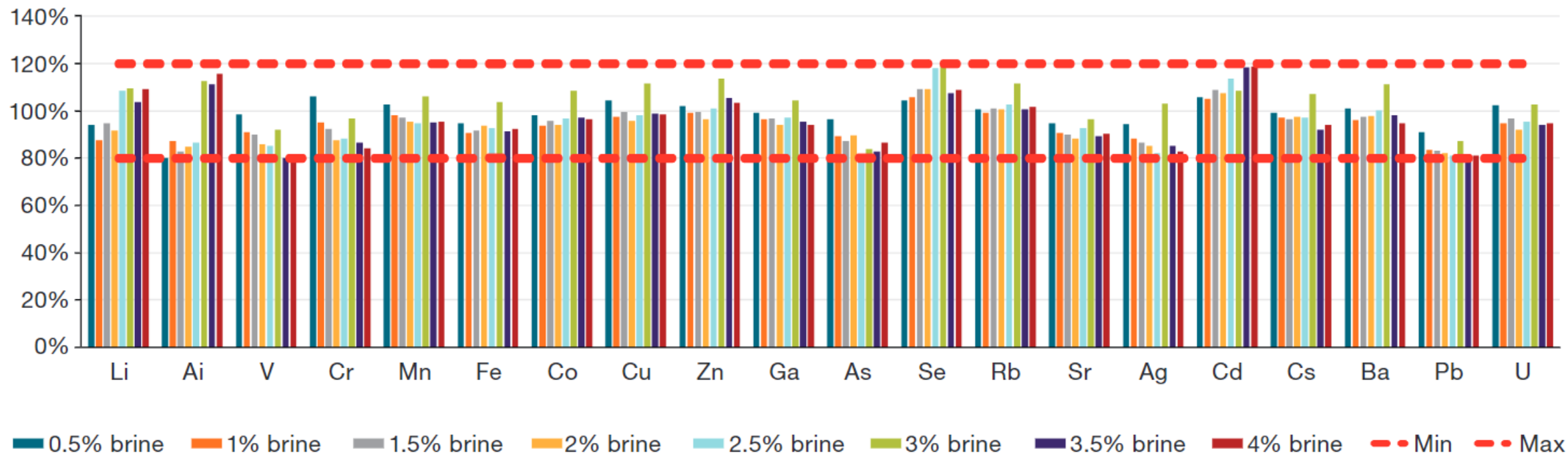


# Argon Gas Dilution

- Compatible with the standard sample introduction system components
- PFA-ST Microflow nebulizer is more resistant against blockage when analyzing high salt loads
- Argon humidification beneficial for salt-rich matrices

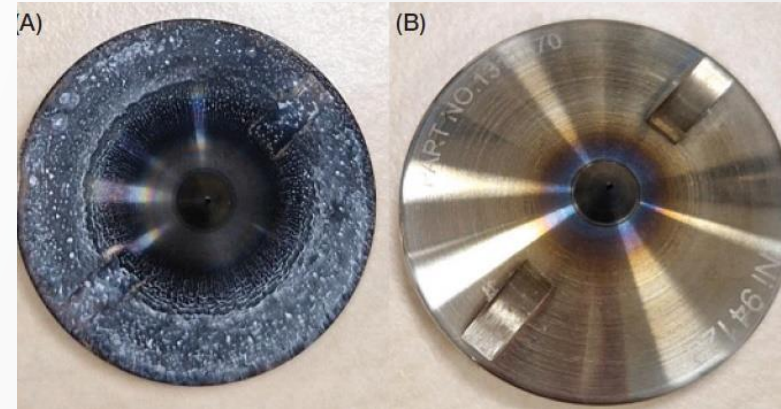
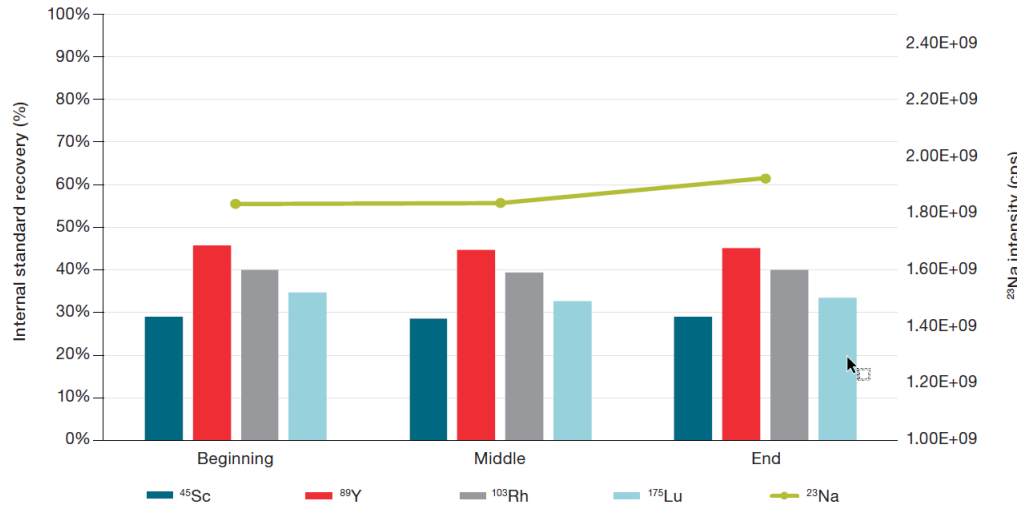
Sample introduction system components	Dilution level		
	Low	Mid	High
Glass concentric nebulizer	✓	✓	✗
Baffled cyclonic spray chamber	✓	✓	✓
2.5 mm i.d. quartz injector	✓	✓	✓
Torch (quartz, PLUS torch)	✓	✓	✓
Skimmer cone insert	✓	High Matrix	✓
ESI Pergo humidifier			
PFA-ST Microflow nebulizer			✓

# AGD: Consistent spike recovery



- Consistent spike recovery independent of the matrix load
- Also high IP elements read back within accepted limits

# Robust consumable for sustainability



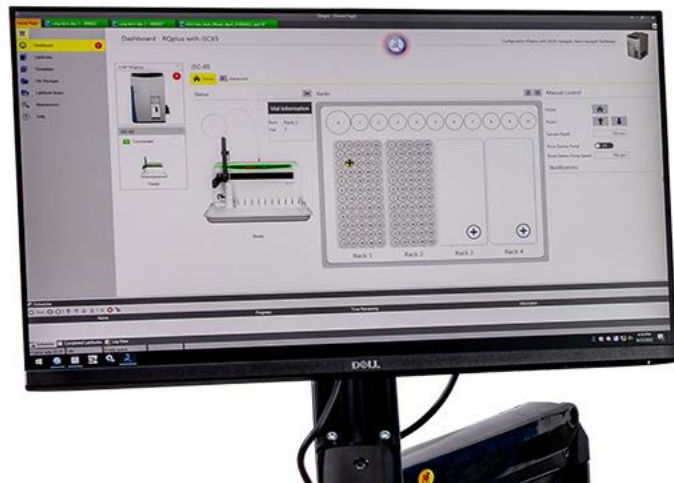
- Analysis of 25% for with minimum rinse time 30s
- Data acquisition for  $^{23}\text{Na}$  is also possible thanks to the high sample dilution and high resolution applied to the analyzing quadrupole

- Robust spare parts: skimmer cone after the analysis and after cleaning
- High dilution using AGD reduces deposition and cross contamination



# Summary

- Power through your challenging samples with next generation argon gas dilution
- Robust sample handling that meets regulatory demands with exceptional long term stability
- Efficiently managed uptime and maintain productivity with HAWK Consumable and Maintenance Assistant
- Simplify your workflow with Qtegra ISDS with structured method creation
- Automated reliable performance with the one-click Get Ready for automatic performance checks



Thank you!