

Case study: New cage-based delivery and storage solution

Tailored cage delivery system delivers improved efficiency and cost savings for Thermo Scientific™ Oxoid™ Media

The Laboratory Mönchengladbach Medical Care Center, located in Mönchengladbach, Germany is one of the largest, most modern laboratories in the country, with about 600 employees and 90,000 clinical-chemical and haematology tests performed daily for 12,000 patients. According to Cornelia Quandt, the Quality Manager in the microbiology lab, “We do pretty much all microbiological examinations that can be offered more or less, including an S3 laboratory. Currently we have about 2,500-3,000 samples per day in microbiology.”

And, like many laboratories, they face a number of challenges, including price pressures, laboratory consolidation and workflow improvements via automation. “More and more samples are to be processed with fewer people,” says Quandt. “We have, of course, automated identification and resistance detection instruments and we have a Maldi TOF. But we have, for example, still no streaking device.” Ultimately, “The task is always to work with the fewest technicians as possible.”

How the Tailored Cage Delivery System works:



Individual design of each cage: Per batch, SKU, lab usage per days etc.

Extra box with one pack per batch
Quick view sheet of all batches

Scanning of each batch delivered to enter into any logistic system used in your lab

Managing the steady stream of incoming deliveries of media and laboratory supplies, and maintaining an efficient inventory control system has also been a major issue. "It is absolutely important – because of increasing sample material – that the incoming goods, storage and handling are as efficient and convenient as possible," says Quandt. It had become "a huge problem to handle the amount of goods that were coming. These individually wrapped and delivered in carton boxes, like 100x10 media plates, would last maybe half a day – so it was quite obvious that we had a huge waste issue."

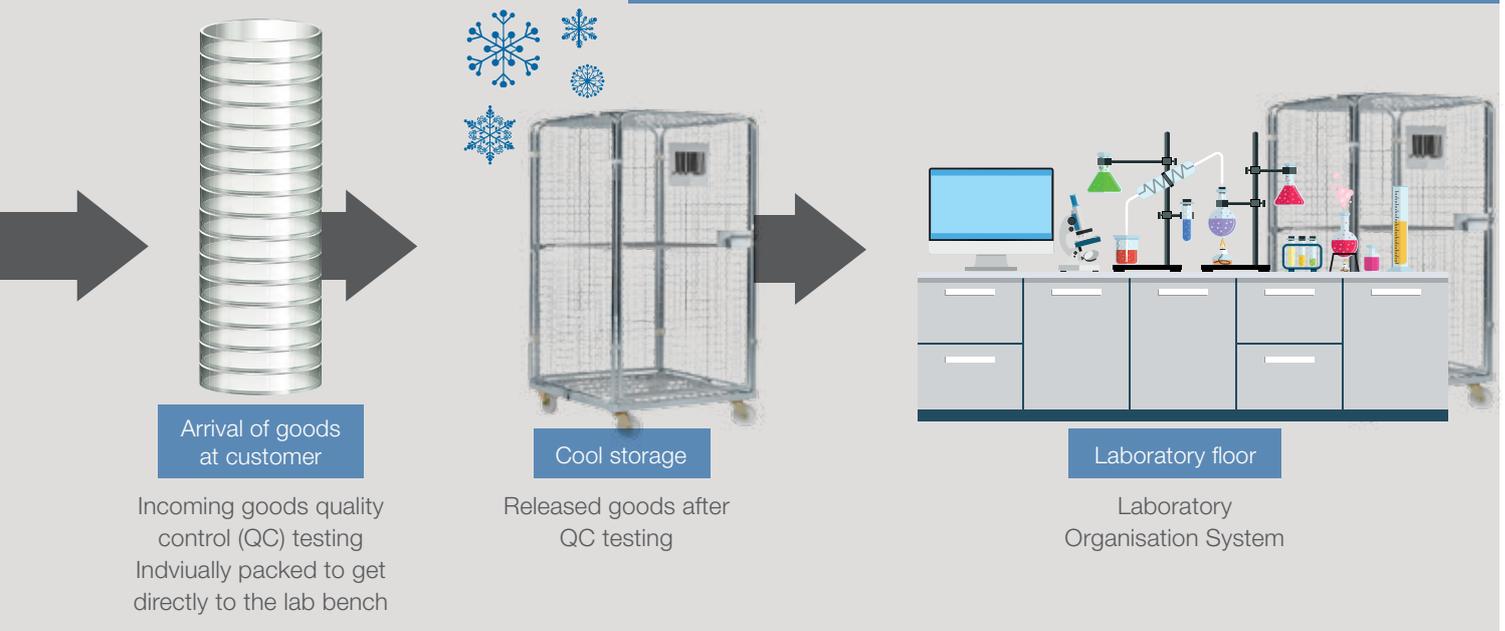
To simplify media storage and reduce waste, Thermo Fisher Scientific Microbiology introduced a new, unique cage-based delivery concept for Oxoid media products. The Tailored Cage Delivery System is a unique logistic offering that saves head count costs, the environment and improves your income goods quality control testing. "We have the cages set up this way; each cage has the barcodes from all batches within the cage taped to the outside of the cage, which is perfect, because we can scan the stock directly into our logistics system (SAS) and check the incoming goods very easily ... I can see from one look how much I have and what kind of products."

Before they implemented the new cage system, they had similar cages that were designed to move inventory from one point to another, but the system required the laboratory to then unpack and store the products in their cold storage area. Since they've started using Thermo Fisher Scientific's system, Quandt noted, "We definitely see time as a benefit because we do not have to unpack the carton boxes. This is really the case when we you look at the time it takes to unpack cartons, which we can now save with the standing media orders. Certainly, we have cost savings through less waste."

According to Quandt, "To unpack the quantities that are currently coming in with the cages, we would need to have at least two people. Meaning incoming goods checking, unpacking, storing in fridges – not the distribution to the floor yet. That's about 30 hours a week for a person we're saving now. Never in the world would we want to leave our cage process anymore, it's much easier and faster to work with. Not only unpacking, but also booking into our merchandise management system, as well as processing the waste."

The new cage system is currently only available in certain countries. Please check with your local Thermo Fisher Scientific Microbiology representative for availability.

For more information on how to implement this system in your laboratory, contact your local Thermo Fisher Scientific Microbiology representative, or email microbiology.eu@thermofisher.com.



Find out more at thermofisher.com/microbiology

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