

**Creating a foundation for
the future of inventory
management –**
*with the Roche Inventory
Solution (RIS)*





*Laboratorio Mega, Rafaela,
Santa Fe Province, Argentina*

The facts: Large-scale clinical laboratory that prides itself on delivering high-quality biomedical services in the region

The people:

Andrés Albrecht, Biochemical Scientist and Head of the Lab

The solution: Roche Inventory Solution (RIS)

The aim: Automate and improve inventory management to meet demand; reduce inventory

The outcome: A dynamic, future-proof inventory solution that provides a strong foundation for further growth

Established in 1998, Laboratorio Mega is a large, independent biomedical laboratory based in Rafaela in the Santa Fe Province of Argentina. It focuses on diverse serum specialties and in developing molecular biology and genetic markers for a variety of veterinary and human medicine applications, and serves clients across the region.

Laboratorio Mega operates according to five clearly defined pillars: quality, automation, computerization, organization and analytical quality. Everything the lab's extensive staff does is geared towards meeting goals and pushing the boundaries in these five areas. In addition, the laboratory is committed to implementing and accessing the best technology available and to professionalizing its human resources to meet stringent quality standards.

To drive efficiency and continuous improvements in inventory management, Laboratorio Mega has introduced Roche Inventory Solution, RIS. This automated system offers a dynamic platform for optimizing processes and creates a strong foundation for transitioning to an even more connected lab environment in the future.



A biomedical employee scans laboratory reagents and cross checks them on her screen in RIS



Mr. Albrecht and his colleagues discuss the benefits of RIS

The right technology and the right people

Laboratorio Mega employs a large number of biochemical and biomedical scientists, technicians and analysts who process blood and tissue samples. In the past, the facility specialized in human and veterinary clinical analysis. Two years ago, it introduced molecular biology, starting with genetic markers to improve meat production before expanding into human samples

Biochemical Scientist and Head of the Lab Andrés Albrecht is passionate about his work and committed not only to improving technology but also to investing in the right human resources to drive the laboratory forward. He explains: “We have developed a non-stop culture of continuous improvement because it implies more than simply rolling out quality programs; it’s an ongoing process.”

With samples entering and leaving the lab constantly, staff at Laboratorio Mega use a high number of consumables and reagents in their day-to-day work. Mr. Albrecht explains: “Most labs do not have an automated or computerized inventory system, they usually have manual tools. In our case, one person used to count the boxes and enter them into an Excel spreadsheet. But that involved spending a lot of time and since we are constantly growing, it entailed a great deal of effort. Our challenge was to determine how to achieve automation and facilitate inventory management in line with demand.”

A solution to meet a specific need

After discussing his requirements with the International Marketing Manager at Roche, Mr. Albrecht decided on Roche Inventory Solution (RIS) as a potential way

to address Laboratorio Mega’s challenges. “One of the characteristics that stood out,” he recalls, “was the simplicity of RIS, i.e. its easy implementation into our existing infrastructure. We didn’t need any additional hardware apart from the handheld barcode scanner supplied by Roche which is connected by WiFi to the lab network.” Another advantage of RIS in Mr. Albrecht’s view is its ability to manage both Roche and third-party reagents and supplies.

The implementation process was fast and, because RIS is intuitive to use, staff training needs were minimal. Today, professionals in the lab rely on RIS to keep track of deliveries and stocks and to manage expiry dates. “If, for example, someone takes out a box of reagents with an expiry date that is longer than on another box, RIS indicates that they should first use the other one,” explains Mr. Albrecht. This helps Laboratorio Mega work efficiently, make the most of available resources and keep inventories low.

“I am very happy and eager to keep on working. I believe this [RIS] will keep on improving and I am willing to explore aspects of the solution we have not yet implemented.”

*Andrés Albrecht,
Biochemical Scientist and Head of the Lab*

Reduce complexity

intuitive, automated inventory administration; third-party integration; no need for RFID tags or WiFi coverage

Gain control

configure multiple sites and segments; define and adjust minimum and maximum inventory levels; manage product expiration

Do more with less

simplify lab management; eliminate manual stock taking; leverage existing infrastructure – no need for RFID workarounds

Elevate the value of your decisions

increase confidence in managing stock; gain insights into consumption and identify patterns; integrate with Excel for further reporting and analysis



Orders are scanned as they enter the lab and are automatically captured in RIS

Paving the way to the lab of the future

RIS provides visibility into all aspects of inventory processes for Mr. Albrecht and his colleagues. With its help, the team can now better manage ordering, forecasting, consumption, expiry and storage. The solution integrates well with the lab's existing infrastructure. Moreover, the user-friendly barcode readers mean there are no barriers to adoption throughout the entire lab.

As a forward-thinker, Mr. Albrecht is already looking ahead. He recognizes that while automation is a hot topic for the lab right now, the future will bring increased demand for interconnection between machines, systems and people. "We are transitioning towards smart labs and a digital revolution across the whole value chain. RIS is a concrete example and a great starting point for us because it combines several of these. It improves process efficiency and reduces costs and it provides us with information in real time."

As the digital economy evolves and biomedical labs begin embracing automation and interconnected systems, process efficiency and access to real-time information will remain high on the agenda at Laboratorio Mega and similar facilities around the globe.

Information anywhere, anytime

Mr. Albrecht is keen to stress the benefits of having inventory information when and where he needs it. Whereas in the past, he would have relied on figures being updated manually in a spreadsheet, he can now review important information at any time of day and from any device.

"I can log in with my user name and password, even during the weekend, and see how many boxes of TSH or glucose we have in stock back at the lab and whether I need to order any. It's very easy," he says with a smile.

"It was simple. Very simple. The process involved learning how to use a new system which is very intuitive, with an easy-to-use design, easy access to information and easy ordering."

*Andrés Albrecht,
Biochemical Scientist and Head of the Lab*

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