

Berlin-Brandenburg Center for Regenerative Therapies

Developing and Implementing New Therapies

Company Background



The BCRT was founded in 2006 as an alliance between the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, one of Europe's largest university clinics, and the Helmholtz Association, Germany's largest research association. A team of over 250 employees - including physicians, scientists, engineers, experts in translational medicine, PhD students and technical staff - are conducting research at the BCRT's two

sites: at the BCRT building on the Virchow Clinic Campus of the Charité, with its close links to the BCRT partner clinics, and at the Teltow Campus of the Helmholtz Centre Geesthacht, the Centre for Biomaterial Development. The BCRT is a joint organization of the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin (Charité University Hospital), and the two Helmholtz Zentrum Centers for biomaterial development in Teltow and the Max Delbrück Center (MDC) in Berlin-Buch, Germany. Set in an excellent research environment, the BCRT aims to effectively enforce new research approaches for supporting the endogenous regeneration through cells, bioactive factors, biomaterials and combinations into clinical applications and products. The BCRT primarily focuses on applied research, reimbursement, pre-clinic including biomarker development and phase I/II trials within the value-added chain.

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Key Challenges

Since BCRT conducts medical research, the laboratory is subject to high regulatory compliance requirements. All laboratory procedures on samples had to be well documented, and the whole process needed to have a high degree of traceability. The system had to allow full tracking of individual samples, where it has been and where it is currently, what is the source of the sample and what procedures have been done to it.

Researchers needed a system that allowed them to easily go through the large amount of data received from the laboratory instruments and provided means to identify the most important information. This required a comprehensive information management system.

User-friendliness was also an important factor. The system needed to be intuitive for the end-user and require minimum training to operate. In addition, the system had to be browser-based. Upgrading and re-configuring the system had to be easy, which meant no coding by the customer. All of this required a flexible, multidisciplinary system that was easily adaptable.

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System Delivered

LABVANTAGE was the solution: it is natively multi-disciplinary and supports different research areas such as biology, chemistry and biochemistry. Its high configurability allowed BCRT to easily modify the system to adapt to changing research environments.

Besides LABVANTAGE, BCRT explored the possibilities offered by other vendors but chose LABVANTAGE because of high product quality and reputation in the industry. Using the LABVANTAGE BioBanking solution allowed for good management of both the samples and the laboratory processes they are involved in, and this combination was exactly what BCRT needed.

Key Benefits

LABVANTAGE fulfilled the LIMS requirements of BCRT because it is a system that provides critical data management and a complete way to track the chain process of samples, instruments, equipment and supplies. As a company, LABVANTAGE has a great deal of experience and knowledge of the LIMS community and the resources to deliver a broad, multi-disciplinary system that could be specifically tailored for the end-user.

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Looking into the Future

Currently the LABVANTAGE BioBanking solution is used in three laboratories and the results of the pilot have been very promising. The well-designed user interface has been particularly useful during data entry. Based on the positive experience from the pilot, BCRT aims to expand the system to cover all of its 25 laboratories.

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