LIMS Evaluation & Tender Process

Noel K Hannan
IT & Technologies Implementation &
Project Manager
West Midlands Regional Genetics

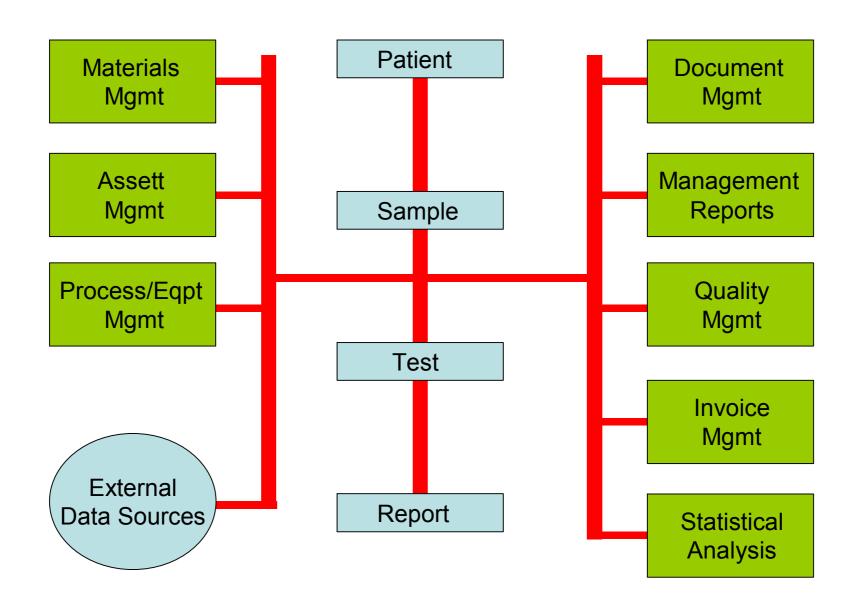
Overview

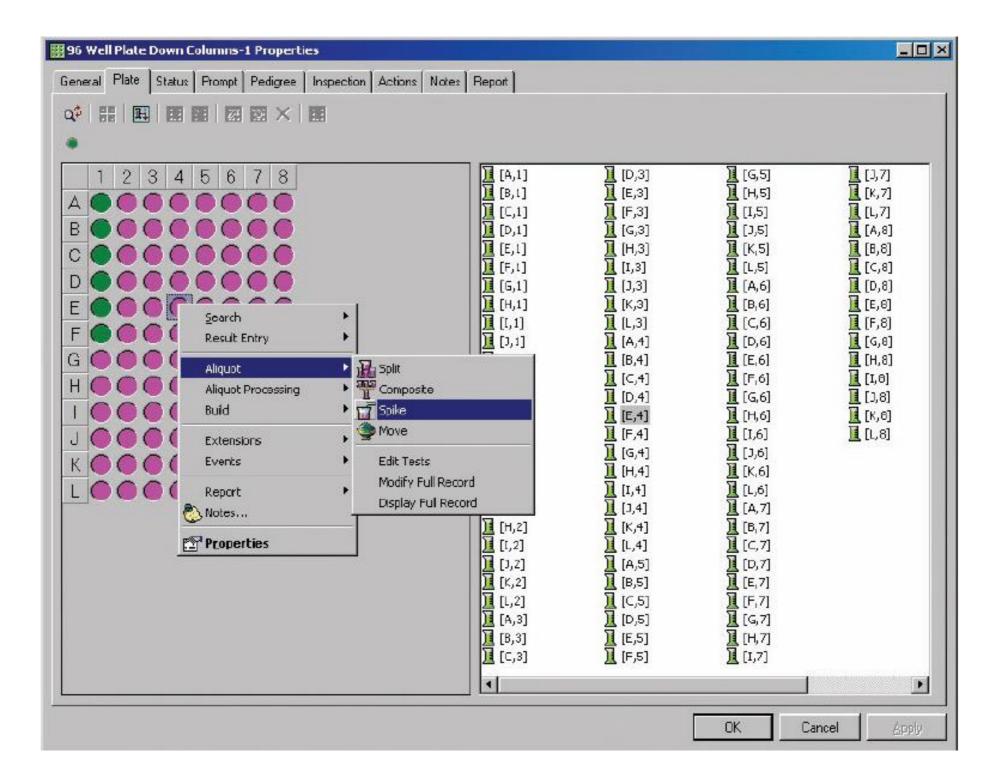
- What is a LIMS?
- Business Case
- Initial project scope
- Expanded project scope
- Evaluation process
- Pilot project
- Tender process
- Final selection

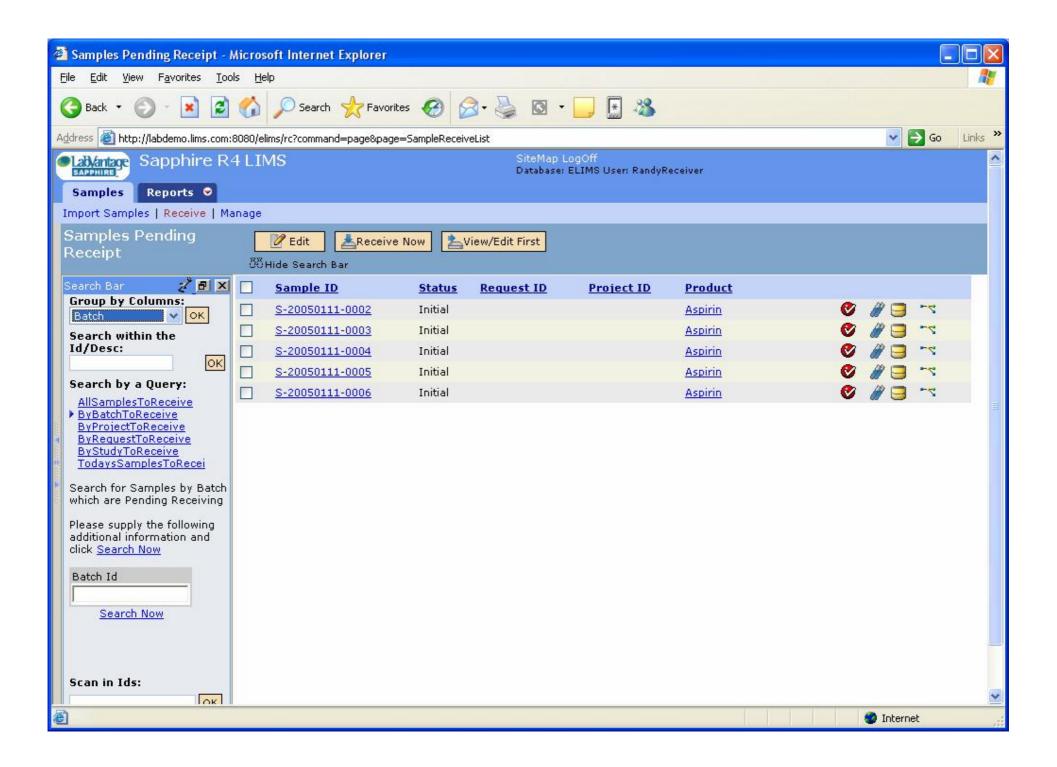
What is a LIMS?

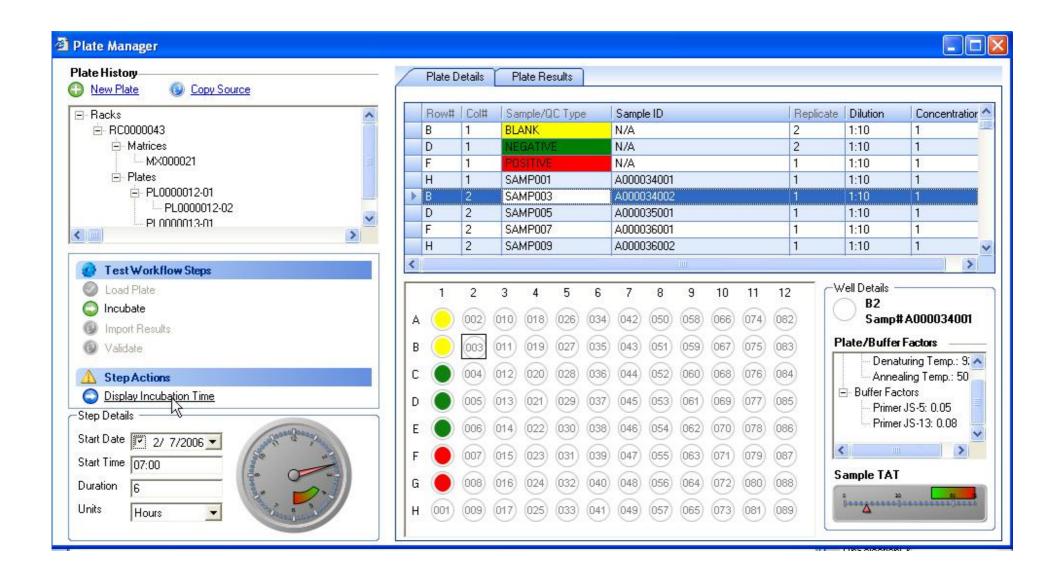
- Laboratory Information Management System
- Normally based on enterprise-strength relational database – Oracle, MS SQL Server
- Sample recording & tracking, workflows, reporting
- Integration with existing database systems and interfacing with instruments

PROPOSED LIMS ARCHITECTURE









Business Case

- Concise Business Case key to any successful project
- Cornerstone of PRINCE2 methodology
- Do we need a LIMS?
- Can we calculate the ROI?
- What is our budget and resources for the evaluation process?

Initial project scope

- White Paper funded
- Identified as business need for Molecular lab high-throughput facility
- Current lab management/database system has no instrument connectivity or development in that area
- Some evaluation work carried out

Expanded project scope

- Cross-lab use Cytogenetics and Molecular
- Single application for lab use workflow, sample tracking, document control, asset management, materials management, reporting
- Increase of automation in Cytogenetics –
 Metafer scanners, slide making robot

Evaluation process

- Contact with software vendors
- Site visits and demo days
- Comparative grid
- Key areas
 - Price!
 - Database choices
 - Client licensing
 - Interfacing
 - Company reputation

Pilot project

- Thermo Electron 'Nautilus'
- Company suggested pilot project
- Appeared good 'baseline' product in terms of price, features, potential
- Pilot project conducted over 6 weeks at WMRGL
- Connectivity to ABI sequencer & Shire database
- Lessons learned

Tender process

- Individual labs tendered via NHS procurement and STEP process
- Timescale allowed several labs to compare tender returns for features and pricing
- Decision made to conduct final selection process as a consortium
- No guarantees, but advantages of consortium buy outweighed individual choice

Final selection

- Final four
 - Labware
 - Labvantage
 - Thermo Nautilus
 - Starlims
- 5 days in Manchester, one vendor per day, demos and Q&A
- Intense!

Summary

- STARLIMS chosen as preferred vendor
- Why?
 - Interfacing
 - Site wide license
 - Willingness to work with us
- That was the easy bit!
- Implementation and integration......