The SiLA Connection

In these uncertain times, we send our heartfelt wishes to all our readers, members or otherwise, that you and yours are all able to stay safe and well and that we can continue to work together to overcome the challenges using the power of lab automation.

STANDARDIZATION IN LAB AUTOMATION   APRIL 2020

More positive community feedback at SLAS 2020

This SLAS 2020 in San Diego was a big success for the consortium and our partners and members. The event counted the highest number of attendees ever, with nearly 6,000 registrations.

Our booth gave a great opportunity to meet many new users of

SiLA 2 since the release last year and get some useful feedback. We also had a number of one-to-one meetings with old friends and saw many new faces. It is clear that many people now know of SiLA and we're moving to a phase of explaining how to get involved. The new **application notes** on SiLA proved popular (see later in this newsletter).

Our **tutorial** was again well attended and gave delegates an update on SiLA 2 and the release. Within this we featured 4 testimonials from member companies Tecan, Equicon, Idorisa and BSSN (now part of Merck) showcasing how and why they benefit from SiLA. You can find the testimonials available for download on our website's [download section](#).

If we missed you this time around, be sure to catch us at the next show (see top right), or online!

Meet us at the following events:

- **SiLA Trainings**
  contact for more details

- **SiLA Hackathons**
  contact for more details

- **SLAS European Sample Management**
  cancelled (webinar) due to Coronavirus

- **Lab of the Future Live 2020**
  Sept 28 -29, Basel, Switzerland

- **Analytica 2020**
  Oct 19 -22, Munich, Germany

SiLA Tutorial @SLAS2020

SiLA 2 - up and running! 👍

New Membership Category announced in 2020 - "SiLA Observing Member"

The SiLA 2 standard was officially launched in October 2019. In an effort to drive adoption and increase the membership numbers, the consortium is pleased to offer an introductory membership for new members. The SiLA community is an important part of the standard. We strongly believe that making it easier to be a part of SiLA, growing this community will help us achieve our mission to enable the Lab of the Future.

As from January 1st, 2020, companies can join the SiLA Consortium as an "observing member". This membership, at the low rate of EUR 2'000 and no entry fee, is valid for one year only and comes along with all benefits of a start-up membership. This membership category offers you the chance to find out how SiLA can help you, your customers and your business.

Hear what our first observing member "Biosero" has to say on why they chose this membership category:

Biosero is excited to join the SiLA Consortium and work with the community to advance standardization for lab automation equipment. We have similar objectives as SiLA for consistency in driver development. We see the benefit of these standardization efforts not only to our customers but also to the continued development of our Green Button Go suite of software products that provide device agnostic integration, automation, scheduling, and data integration services for all levels of laboratory operations.

First SiLA 2 Training in Basel, 19th December 2019

Our first SiLA 2 training took place on December 19 last year. During this 1-day training course, the participants received an introduction to the SiLA 2 key concepts and architecture, could then define a SiLA 2 feature and develop their first SiLA 2 server!

The participants particularly praised the size of the group and the expertise of our UniteLabs coaches. After this first very successful training, the SiLA Consortium is looking for other partners who would like to host training sessions in 2020. Please contact info@sila-standard.org.

If you want to learn more about trainings in 2020, have a look at https://sila-standard.com/training/ or contact us directly.

SiLA is thinking about offering online-trainings and hackathons in 2020.
A survey for this will be sent out soon, as we would like to know your opinion and interest.

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Dr. Mark Dörr, Institute of Biochemistry, Dept. of Biotechnology & Enzyme Catalysis

Congratulations to Mark who secured a front cover spot of the October issue of GIT Labor journal for his article on the use of SiLA in his research. A copy of the article is available here.

Dr. Mark Doerr is a (bio-)chemist and staff scientist in Prof. Uwe Bornscheuer's protein engineering and biocatalysis group at the Institute for Biochemistry of the University of Greifswald, Germany.

He is responsible for the institute's robotic protein high-throughput screening platform LARA (lara.uni-greifswald.de), planning and programming the screening campaigns and writing the evaluation software LARAsuite (gitlab.com/LARAsuite).

Further scientific interests/fields are machine learning and microfluidics. He is part of the SiLA 2 laboratory communication standardisation core development team and maintainer of the SiLA python repository (gitlab.com/SiLA2/sila_python).

NEW SiLA 2 application notes!

We are pleased to announce a set of application notes showcasing some recent adoptions of SiLA 2. Whether you are a lab user, a vendor, an established supplier or start-up, you will find something here to suit your interests.
More application notes are in preparation as SiLA is adopted more widely. The current notes can be found on our website.

SiLA hackathon #19 – online session available!

Due to Coronavirus we were not able to hold the hackathon #19 at the Technical University in Berlin as planned. Therefore, the SiLA-Team quickly managed to adapt to the situation and held the session online instead of physical.

So the upside of the situation, we now are able to share a full hackathon session with all of you! Find the recording is published on youtube: **SiLA hackathon #19**

We look forward to your comments and feedback!

The scheduled hackathon on June 9th in Berlin had to be cancelled.
The next confirmed events are scheduled for June 30th in Gouda, Netherland, September 9th, in Göttingen and October 13th, in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Welcome on Board

After the nominations in February, we were delighted to welcome the two new Directors, Robert Söldner (Sartorius) and Max Schulz (UniteLabs) at the first Board Meeting on March 9th.

With these **two new Directors** the SiLA Board – with 15 members - is now complete.

Robert Söldner has a background in computer science and looks back on over 10 years of experience in various industries. Beside Fintech and Biotech he held several positions in software engineering companies. Currently he works as a Research Scientist in the Corporate Research division at Sartorius.

SiLA is one of the enabling technologies that lets scientists focus on research again, instead of struggling with device integration.

Maximilian Schulz completed his masters in Robotics at ETH Zurich also working as a researcher in drone technologies and working on automation projects abroad in various industries. After his studies he joined the startup Rapyuta Robotics that developed brains for robots in the cloud where he experienced the power of a strong community and open source software. With the desire to bring these concepts and technologies to the life science industry, he co-founded the software company UniteLabs where he is responsible for smooth operations and managing the technology development.

You want to try out SiLA 2 but do not know how to get started?

Visit our standard-page and scroll down to "**get started**", you will find useful information and links: https://sila-standard.com/standards/

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Follow SiLA on youtube! …

…and don't forget to like and leave a comment!

Visit us at www.sila-standard.org

Email us at info@sila-standard.org

Spinnereistrasse 38, 8645 Rapperswil-Jona

Call +41 55 210 01 19 (Switzerland)

Follow us on Twitter or LinkedIn