

# The SiLA Connection



STANDARDIZATION IN LAB AUTOMATION

APRIL 2023

## SLAS 2023 in San Diego – yet another great event !

A trip to southern California is always welcome, especially during the European Winter. This year we were greeted with cold and rain, but this soon cleared up for another great SLAS bigger and better than ever. The SLAS booth was busy most of the time and it was great to meet so many new people who already had a good grasp of the value of interoperability standards, as well as to see old friends.

Here is a short clip of our "speak SiLA to me" campaign at the SLAS.



## See us at these events:

[Pharma Automation & Robotics](#)  
April 20-21, London, UK

[PDA Robotics and Automation Conference](#)  
May 3-4, Amsterdam, NL

[BioIT US 2023](#)  
May 16-18, Boston & virtual, US

[FutureLABS Live EU](#)  
May 31- June 2, Basel, CH

[Lab of the Future Europe](#)  
Sept 26 - 27, Amsterdam, NL

[BioTechX](#)  
Oct 4 - 6, Basel, CH

The cherry on the cake was the [SiLA tutorial “one standard – an all-around perspective”](#) which featured a recap on SiLA and AniML activities and the new working groups on robotics and adoptions. This was followed by a set of outstanding showcase talks, from users and vendors: Labforward/Tecan, USCD, Splashlake and Promega. Thanks to all those who joined us!

For those who missed the event, the recording is available on [youtube](#).

**Room 15A**  
Check the app for program details!

**Tuesday**

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
SiLA Consortium Exhibitor Tutorial

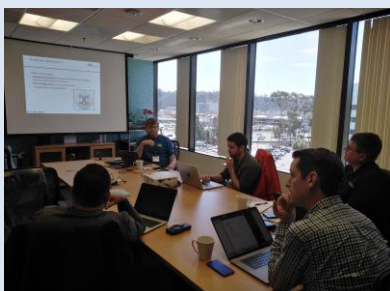


**SiLA: One standard -  
an all-around perspective**

Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
9:00 - 10:00 AM

Location: 15A

SiLA and AniML - Our vision  
Splashlake - FAIR data management  
UCSD - Taming DIY integrated robotic arm workcells  
Promega - Microplate reader in automated workflows  
Labforward - Seamless sample registration & analysis workflow



## NEW - SiLA Splash at SLAS

On the day following SLAS, we arranged our inaugural SiLA Splash, a **hybrid hackathon, learn and network event**. With this format the group could do a deep dive on topics of data and connectivity from the SiLA and AniML.



## Deutsche Biotechnologietage, Wiesbaden

On March 28-29, SiLA Partner, BioDeutschland, organized the "Deutsche Biotechnologietage" in Wiesbaden, Germany. Here is a **sum up from Prof. Dr. Georg Hinkel**, who represented SiLA at the event:

Circular economy by using yeast to turn waste into oil or proteins, curing AIDS through gene therapies, fighting cancer through RNA printers, solving the antibiotic resistance problem with phages – the German Biotechnology Days (DBT) forum in Wiesbaden offered solutions to a wide range of severe global problems. The outcome of panels and symposia was clear: as mankind, we need more of these technologies, we need them faster and at scale. While scaling these technologies is currently inhibited rather through legal and financial obstacles, many speakers acknowledged the significant advancements in terms of research efficiency brought by digitalization and standardization of lab equipment and processes.

In particular, biotechnology and digitalization were seen as key technologies that will boost the economy in the years ahead. Here, **SiLA 2 as an open standard for the connection of devices in a lab has a key role** to combine both of these technologies and boost biotechnology through digitalization in the labs in order to unlock the "huge potential" (opening statement by State Secretary Philipp Nimmermann) of the biotech technologies towards a sustainable economy and better health care.



## SiLA at Pharma Automation & Robotics 2023, April 20-21, London, UK

SiLA Head of Robotics Working Group, Ádám Wolf, will give a **keynote talk** with the title: **"Reference Architecture Model for the Integration of Lab Robots"**, April 20th at 8:55am, Conference Room 2

In that, Adam is going to elaborate the Laboratory Automation Plug & Play concept's reference architecture aspect, which includes a hierarchical decomposition of lab workflows, outlining the corresponding layers and elements of the control architecture and creating a taxonomy for lab robot activities.

This conceptual work is technology agnostic at this stage, but **SiLA is considered a key enabler for future implementations**, both in the communication aspect and the representation of the activities in the form of SiLA features.

The **SiLA Robotics Working Group's activities are covering these aspects** on multiple fronts, including the feature unification endeavor, the reference implementation for the pick and place labware transfer activity, the labware ontologies subgroup and discussions regarding an overall digital twin approach for lab robots.

If you wish more information on the SiLA robotics Working Group, contact [us](#).



SiLA Corporate Member: [contact us](#) for a free ticket or discount code!

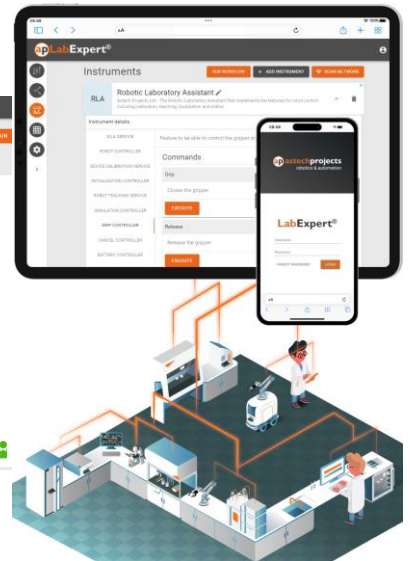
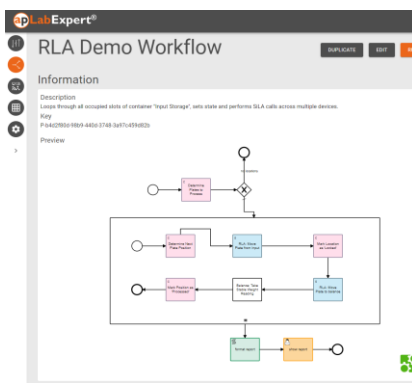
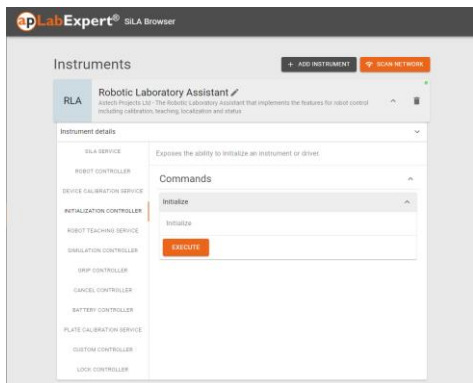
## Astech Project released it's LabExpert® in January 2023

Take control of your lab to design and execute automated experiments with [LabExpert®](#) from Astech Projects. It is designed from the ground up to give users full control and flexibility while making learning as easy as possible. **Command any SiLA 2 instrument, connect the measurements and metadata directly to your LIMS or ELN and keep the users updated on all actions through notifications.** And the best part – it will run on any device, via your web browser.

Draw your workflows using intuitive and visual diagrams in a drag-and-drop manner. Incorporate automatic decision-making based on the readouts and retain flexibility by adding manual tasks. The diagrams are based on the BPMN standard, and they are already used successfully across various industries. The workflow designer fits the needs of life science laboratory and is exceptionally easy to use.

Technical Data: Web browser based, optimised for desktop, tablet and mobile devices. Workflow orchestration based on BPMN standard using the Camunda scheduling engine. **Compatible with SiLA 2 clients and multiple data sources.**

For questions, contact: [info@astechprojects.co.uk](mailto:info@astechprojects.co.uk)



Are you a SiLA corporate members and want to promote your SiLA compatible or compliant product within the community? Contact us at [info@silastandard.org](mailto:info@silastandard.org)

SiLA present at [Bio IT World](#) in Boston - Stay tuned for more information!



## Robotics-4-Labautomation Symposium

This full day event is going to take place on May 25th in Konstanz, Germany.

The Robotics-4-Labautomation Symposium invites all lab automation and robotics experts from research and industry, who want to network and exchange ideas with scientists and industry representatives from all over Europe.

With a wide-ranging program, the **event will highlight current topics related to robotics and lab automation in the pharmaceutical and health industries.**

In inspiring lectures, the topics of sterility in the lab and challenges and requirements when integrating a robot into a lab automation system will be addressed. Other topics that will be covered are object identification, robotic sensors and AI interaction, and the digital twin.

Furthermore, a panel discussion will cover aspects of quality management and the validation of robotic systems, for instance in the pharmaceutical industry or in diagnostics.

The symposium will conclude with an outlook on the current top trends in lab automation and robotics: What are the most important research fields of the future?

All interested parties such as researchers, entrepreneurs, start-ups, students, PhD students and other experts from the fields of laboratory automation and robotics are cordially invited.

Join now. Admission is free for all participants, register [here](#).

**SiLA will have a booth with SiLA Director and Head of Admin, Jason Meredith, present!**

The event is part of the [TraceBot project](#), that receives funding from the European Union's H2020-EU.2.1.1. INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP program.



## PDA Robotics and Automation Conference

SiLA Director, Dr. Patrick Courtney will be speaking at the forthcoming PDA conference in Amsterdam on **May 3rd at 10:20am on “Advances in Robotics and Open Interoperability Accelerates Innovation in Biopharm Manufacturing”** within the session Digitalization of Drug Manufacturing.



Patrick Courtney will be speaking about the role of robotics in digitization and digitalization with an update on robotics initiatives, explain the role of the interoperability in building systems, the role of FAIR data in digitization, collaboration and AI and developments in SiLA and AnIML with special focus on the EU's TraceBot project on traceable robotics. More details [here](#).



## SiLA Demo Workgroup-Update

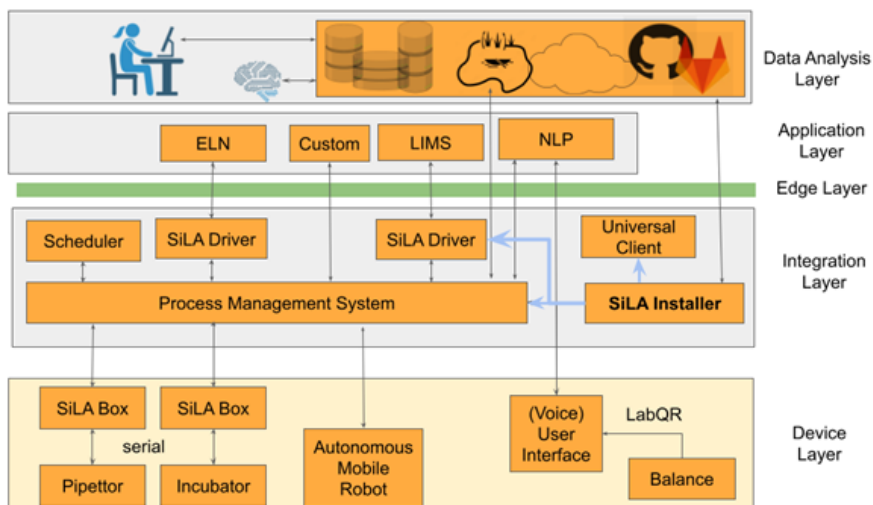
After several Working Group (WG) meetings and numerous discussions the outline of our planned SiLA Demo Suite (SDS) is sharpening. It will be tailored around a generic laboratory use case with focus on information flow following the insight that typical un-automated laboratories will greatly profit from improved sample-tracking and streamlined electronic documentation, which can be achieved budgetless using legacy electronic devices.

Core of the SDS will be a comprehensive installer that serves as a shop-front to our hand-curated open-source Software repository based on the SiLA-awesome implementations. To support a basic use case it will install, configure, and maintain the SiLA Orchestrator including pre-installed demo protocols, the Universal SiLA Client and drivers to external, and cloud-based services such as LIMS and ELN. At a later stage the installer functionality will be broadened to access and install (commercial) software from external sources, effectively becoming a SiLA App-store.

The aim of the SDS is to lower barriers towards automation by offering an easy and free basic automation backbone to explore and enjoy the benefits of SiLA-absed P'nP Automation.

To ensure smooth installation and setup all implementations within the SDS-Repository will be required to meet highest quality standards with full CI/CD pipelines and automated quality checks. To ensure professional development and continuous maintenance of the SDS-installer and associated repository we plan on presenting a request for proposal within the next weeks.

**SiLA Demo WG meetings are typically bi-weekly on thursdays 14-15h CET, if interested please contact [tim.meyer@silastandard.org](mailto:tim.meyer@silastandard.org) for an invitation.**



Lab OF THE Future Europe  
26th & 27th September 2023  
Beurs van Berlage, Amsterdam

The Meeting of  
Innovation, Collaboration & Technology

[www.lab-of-the-future.com](http://www.lab-of-the-future.com)



SiLA members will get a 10% discount with the code "sila10" during the checkout process. Discount will only be applied at the time of booking. Register using this link: <https://bit.ly/3m5IA9l>

## FutureLabs LIVE - Standardization is about cooperation

The SiLA consortium is excited to announce its participation in the upcoming Future Labs Live in Basel from May 31st to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

Besides SiLA's involvement in presentations and panel discussions at the event, **our member, UniteLabs, organizes a shared booth with hard- and software vendors, who use and support the SiLA standard.**

The collaboration of the participating vendors will be showcased through a **use case demonstration** with their state-of-the-art products, making the standard tangible for attendees and illustrate how **SiLA can improve lab workflows today and enables interoperability and rapid integration between different lab instruments and software.**

SiLA's contribution to the event will highlight the benefits of adopting a standardized approach to lab automation and data exchange and how the standard enables a service-oriented architecture through plug-and-play device integration.

For more information on the shared booth and demonstration, please get in touch with [UniteLabs](#) directly. We are looking forward to seeing you in Basel!



**FUTURE LABS LIVE** CONFIRMED SPEAKER

Congress Centre Basel  
31 May - 2 June 2023  
terrapijn.com/futurelabs

**Dr Patrick Courtney**  
Advisory Board Member  
SiLA Consortium

BOOK FOR FREE #FutureLabsLive @FutureLabs\_Live



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**Burkhard Schaefer**  
Head of Partnering  
SiLA Consortium

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**BioTechX**

4 – 6 October 2023 | Congress Center Basel, Switzerland  
6 – 7 September 2023 | Santa Clara Convention Center California, USA

BioDataWORLD congress GenomicsLIVE CheminformaticsLIVE PharmaI

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

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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