

UK Biocentre Partners with Azenta Life Sciences to Revolutionise Sample Storage in Biomedical Research

Milton Keynes, UK

January 23, 2025

UK Biocentre has announced the installation of the state-of-the-art BioArc™ Ultra™ Automated Storage System, provided by Azenta Life Sciences, as part of its commitment to advancing biomedical research. This system enhances the facility's storage capabilities, further solidifying its status as the leader in high-capacity bioprocessing and analysis.

Located in Milton Keynes, UK Biocentre's 70,000-square-foot facility has the capacity to store over 35 million biosamples, enabling the centre to support large-scale projects such as *Our Future Health*, the UK's most comprehensive health research programme involving up to 5 million participants.

The BioArc Ultra system offers eco-friendly, fully automated storage at -80°C, designed to reduce operational footprints, labour, and energy costs. Unlike traditional systems, it uses natural air-cooling technology, aligning with UK Biocentre's mission to lower carbon emissions while maintaining sample integrity.

UK Biocentre is a key collaborator in the scientific community, known for its support of ground-breaking research and dedication to high-quality sample management including automated storage which offers integrated sample lineage and traceability, minimised thermal disruption and high-speed robotic picking. The installation of the BioArc Ultra solidifies its commitment to using cutting-edge technology to meet the evolving needs of biomedical science.

Dr. Tony Cox OBE, Chief Executive Officer of UK Biocentre, commented:

'We are thrilled to announce that UK Biocentre is commissioning an Azenta Life Sciences BioArc Ultra -80 automated sample storage system. Capable of holding more than 16M samples, the BioArc will be located at our site in Milton Keynes and brought online and operational by early 2026. The advanced cooling technology at the heart of the BioArc system means that UK Biocentre will remain at the cutting edge of very large-scale sample storage innovation, and at the same time deliver our mission to reduce the environmental impact of long-term support for vital clinical and life science research projects across the world. We are proud to partner with Azenta Life Sciences to bring this unique offering to the UK, enabling us to maximise the potential of every sample.'

Alex Esmon, Vice President and General Manager of Global Products at Azenta Life Sciences, added:

"We are excited to support UK Biocentre with the advanced automation sample storage capabilities of the BioArc Ultra. The addition of the BioArc Ultra delivers on the promise of enabling breakthroughs faster through substantial improvements in proven automation and refrigeration technology that ensures critical sample integrity while streamlining workflows and ensuring sustainability."

For more information about UK Biocentre visit www.ukbiocentre.com. To learn about Azenta Life Sciences' BioArc Ultra, visit www.azenta.com.

About UK Biocentre

UK Biocentre is a respected leader in high-throughput end-to-end sample processing and automated sample storage. Supporting large-scale biomedical, pharmaceutical, and clinical studies, enabling life-changing research in the academic, commercial and biotech communities. The company is currently working on projects that are trying to understand more about ME, leukaemia, cancer and acute pancreatitis and also on Our Future Health, one of the UK's largest ever health research projects.

About Azenta Life Sciences

Azenta, Inc. is a leading provider of life sciences solutions worldwide, enabling impactful breakthroughs and therapies to market faster. Azenta provides a full suite of reliable cold-chain sample management solutions and multiomics services across areas such as drug development, clinical research and advanced cell therapies for the industry's top pharmaceutical, biotech, academic and healthcare institutions globally. Our global team delivers and supports these products and services through our industry-leading brands, including GENEWIZ, FluidX, Ziath, 4titude, Limfinity, Freezer Pro, and Barkey.

Azenta is headquartered in Burlington, MA, with operations in North America, Europe and Asia. For more information, please visit www.azenta.com.

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