

SECTION



Within two years of the first installation, Eurofins PAMM has expanded to seven C100 Dakewe laser cassette printers – one at each grossing station. Compact in size, the printers fit easily into the workspace, ensuring a smooth workflow with each cassette printed before tissue processing.

WHEN EVERY DECIBEL AND SECOND COUNTS: Eurofins PAMM takes the lead on laser cassette printing

Within two years, Eurofins PAMM laboratory in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, has significantly improved its pathological workflow by simply replacing its old cassette printers with laser models. The onsite results speak for themselves: reduced noise, faster printing, and greater reliability. Embracing new technology is, however, only part of the story – finding the right industry partner was just as important.

Noise difference revealed through sound test

Two different models of printers were tested, and the lab even conducted its own internal noise measurements, which revealed some notable differences. “The C100 printer from Dakewe [manufacturer] measured around 60 decibels whereas the other printer we tested was around 70 decibels.”

A noise difference of 10 dB per printer may not sound like much, but, as team leader Maarten Navis points out: with a

growing lab, every printer you add will also add more dB. Aside from the noise level, the C100 also turned out to be faster than the lab’s old model.

First mover in the Netherlands

With such convincing test results, the choice was easy and thus, Maarten Navis and his colleagues at Eurofins PAMM became the very first laboratory in the Netherlands to install the C100 Dakewe laser cassette printers.



Maarten Navis, team leader at Eurofins PAMM in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, played a key role in implementing the C100 Dakewe laser cassette printer. He notes that it not only proved the quietest of the two printers tested but also delivered better print quality – eliminating issues with damaged printing or unreadable barcodes. For his colleagues, however, the biggest advantage is saving 5-6 seconds per cassette.

Eurofins PAMM worked closely with Axlabs throughout the pre-installation, LIS integration, and on-site training. "This approach helped ensure a quick and smooth implementation. Connecting with our LIS system also went smoothly," says Maarten Navis. When asked what the staff sees as the key benefit, Maarten Navis immediately responds the speed, estimating a reduction of about 5-6 seconds per cassette. This enables the team to complete work sooner and handle more tissue blocks.

Improved print quality

Print quality also improved, according to Maarten Navis: "With the laser printers, we no longer risk scraping the barcodes off. Our previous printers weren't laser printers and when we scraped the paraffin off the cassettes, we sometimes damaged the printing or the barcode so that we could no longer read or scan it." This was a daily recurring issue and a big cause for frustration among the staff. Not only did it interfere with the workflow, but patient id safety could also be compromised. These problems are now a thing of the past, he says.

Maintenance routines key in ensuring longevity

Whereas the initial training was conducted by Axlabs, training of new staff is, thanks to solid in-house expertise and experience at Eurofins PAMM, handled internally. Cleaning and changing of filters are also handled internally. Once a year, the instruments are serviced by Axlabs. With up to 800 blocks processed per day, the seven laser cassette printers at Eurofins PAMM rarely have a moment's rest. Nevertheless, after two years of daily usage, they perform as reliably as they did on day one, according to Maarten Navis.

Local expertise paired with international know-how

Although the need for service and support is minimal, having expert help available is essential for Maarten Navis. He describes the collaboration with Axlabs as "fast, responsive, friendly, and knowledgeable." Knowing that support is just a

phone call away makes a difference, something he has experienced is not always a given when working with larger organisations. At the same time, he benefits from the broader international network and expertise an international company can provide.

Access to educational events such as Axlabs Academy in the Netherlands or elsewhere in Europe is also something that Maarten Navis and his team finds highly valuable. To Maarten Navis, it is a partnership that goes both ways; from regular meetings and dialogue to catchups at relevant conferences and events and always keeping an open door to your lab for an informal visit.

From printer, to partnership, to new discoveries

Dutch regulations stipulate that laboratory instruments in working order must not be discarded. For Eurofins PAMM, this instead allows them to consult current users, secure the internal buy-in, and prepare solid business cases. Although the partnership started with cassette printers, many other innovative solutions and ideas, such as automated sectioning with AS-410M and block archiving with FINA, have since been discussed and investigated, in combination with visits to Denmark as well as other labs.

Looking back, Maarten Navis and his colleagues at Eurofins PAMM are glad they took the leap as the first in the Netherlands to install the C100 laser cassette printers – a decision that turned out to be a new standard for efficiency in their lab.

EUROFINS PAMM Eurofins PAMM is the leading laboratory diagnostics service provider in the Southeast Brabant region. Eurofins PAMM focuses on Pathology and Medical Microbiology and consists of two laboratories. The Pathology laboratory is located at Catharina. Diagnosis, consultation, prevention, applied research, and continuous education are among Eurofins PAMM's core activities. Eurofins PAMM collaborates with various hospitals in the region, as well as 450 general practitioners, the Municipal Health Service (GGD), healthcare institutions, and obstetric practices.

AXLAB ACADEMY Axlabs Academy combines user presentations, hands-on demonstrations, interactive workshops, and collaborative knowledge-sharing sessions. From its inception more than 20 years ago, Axlabs Academy has focused on comprehending the daily work of biomedical scientists and pathologists. This approach not only drives innovation and skill enhancement among the participants but also aims to positively impact patient care.

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