CASE STUDY

ENHANCING DRUG BIO-DISTRIBUTION WITH OUR 9400 CRYOSTAT

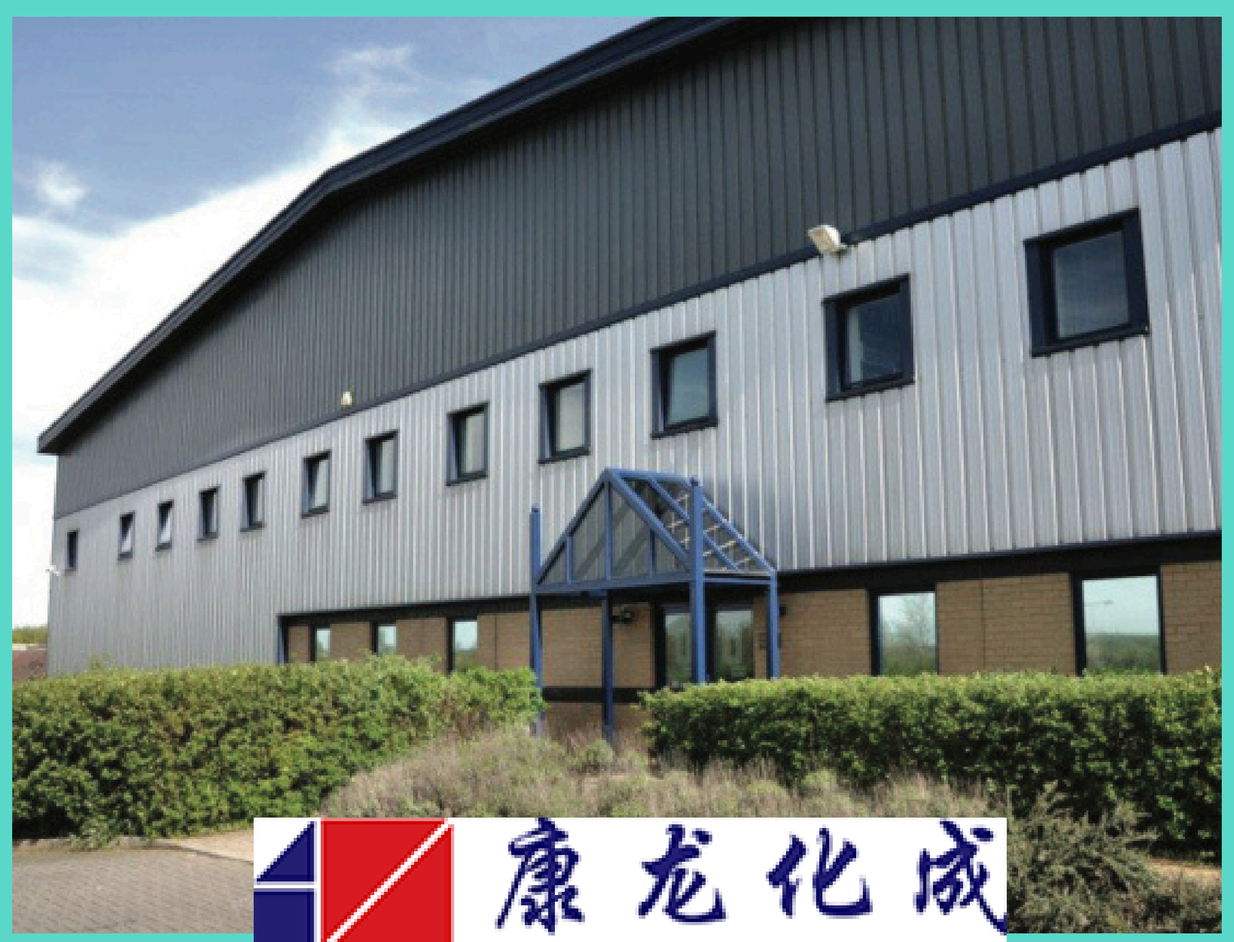
INTRODUCTION

Bright Instruments client Pharmaron is a premier service provider to the life sciences industry, headquartered in China and employing 20,000 people worldwide. Founded in 2004, the company delivers a broad spectrum of research, development and manufacturing services throughout drug discovery, preclinical, and clinical development across multiple therapeutic modalities, including small molecules, biologics, and cell and gene therapies.

THE CLIENT

Pharmaron in Rushden, UK, close to Bright Instruments headquarters in Cambridgeshire, oversees radiolabelled contract research studies for its clients.

Claire Henson is Team Leader of Pharmaron's Metabolism Imaging department which conducts radiolabelled contract research studies. These 'bio-distribution studies', utilise radioactive drug labelling to track the movement and breakdown of drugs in the body.



The team's existing two cryostats were an important tool for its research. Rodents and, occasionally, other small mammals, are administered radiolabelled drugs. After this, their tissue sections are used to explore how the drugs are absorbed, distributed, metabolised and excreted by the body.

THE CATALYST

With Pharmaron’s rapid expansion and increasing workload, Claire’s team needed a third cryostat to manage the company’s growing number of research contracts.

The team had made a significant investment in two cryostats from an alternative supplier but the performance of both were marred by poor after-sales service. This prompted Claire to explore alternative suppliers who could not only meet her team’s requirements but deliver industry-leading after sales service and technical support.

BUYING CRITERIA

The critical criteria for Claire’s new cryostat were:

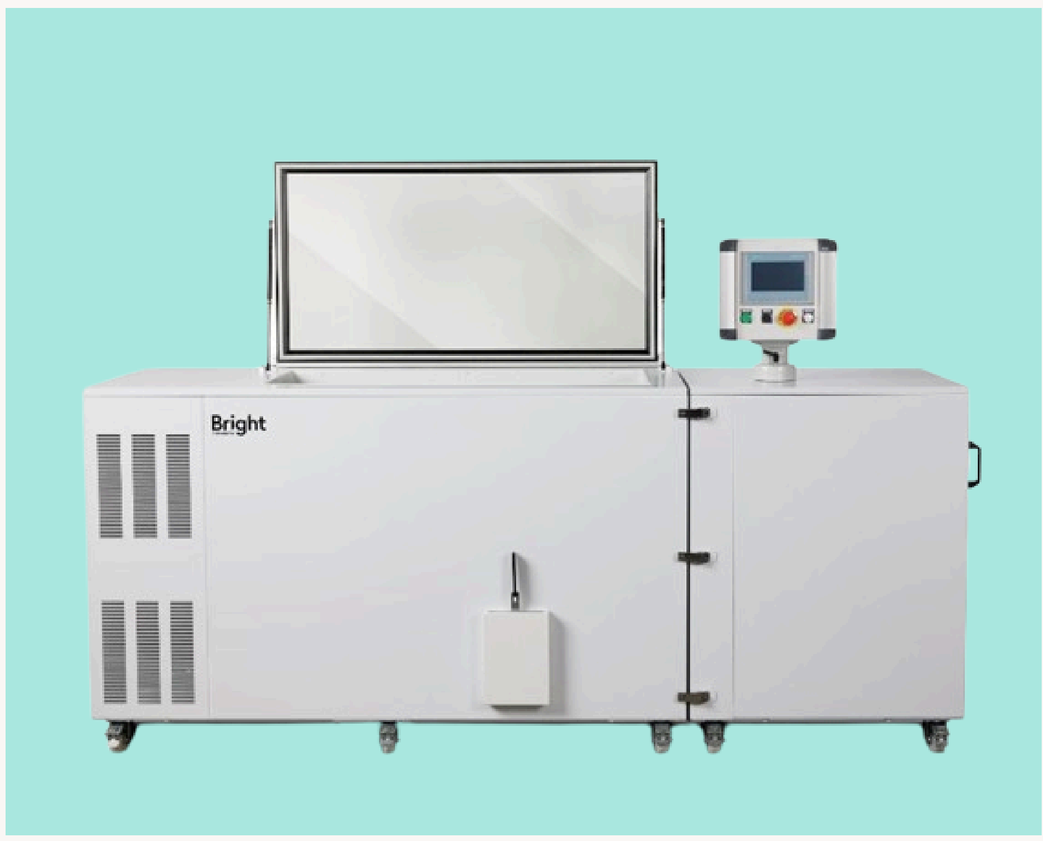
- Specimen size accommodation: the cryostat needed to accommodate rodent and other small mammal specimens, with a cutting window of up to 30cm.
- Temperature maintenance: a consistent temperature of -20C.
- Variable cutting speeds: to optimise specimen quality.
- Ease of cleaning: to sanitise the interior as well as the exterior of the machine.
- Hands free operation: via the knee lever.
- Easy operating controls.
- Adjustable cutting depth.
- Automatic sectioning: ensuring consistency of sections and saving time.
- Anti-roll plate: for occasional use.

THE SOLUTION

After discussions with our technical team, Pharmaron purchased a Bright Instruments 9400 Cryostat, a large machine capable of sectioning rodents and small mammals.

“The Bright Instruments Cryostat is a workhorse and it takes beautiful tissue samples.”

Metabolism Imaging Team
Pharmaron



OUTCOME

The Bright Instruments 9400 Cryostat has significantly contributed to Pharmaron's research capabilities, used to support many interesting drug bio-distribution studies. Claire is keen that the collaboration continues to enable even more varied use of our cryostats in unconventional research projects.

From the outset of our collaboration, Claire acknowledged the commitment of Bright Instruments Customer Service Team, Engineers and Senior Leadership in working closely with Pharmaron to meet its needs.

An annual service contract ensures the machine is maintained regularly by our technical team so that it always performs at its best.

"They were always quick to help and were very responsive. The Service team from Bright Instruments visit regularly, providing invaluable support."

Claire Henson
Senior Autoradiography Specialist
Pharmaron

TO CONCLUDE

We are delighted that Pharmaron is so positive about its interaction with us. In a fast-moving marketplace, pharmaceutical companies are increasingly contracting out their research to specialists such as Pharmaron who need to operate efficiently to keep up with demand.

Pharmaron is keen to continue working with us to explore bespoke machines that meet the company's ongoing interest in innovative research.