

## MALDI COLONYST® Official Press Release

**“MALDI COLONYST® - UNIQUE SAMPLE PREPARATION ROBOT, IMPROVING MALDI-TOF MICROBIAL IDENTIFICATION RESULTS WHILE SIGNIFICANTLY SAVING CONSUMABLE COSTS”**

*July 2016, Brno, Czech Republic  
BioVendor Instruments a.s.*

In July 2016, after two years of its own internal intensive development and testing, [BioVendor Instruments](#) - an innovative R&D and manufacturing company located in Brno, Czech Republic, finally officially released their latest generation of **intelligent robot for colony picking and complete MALDI target preparation, the MALDI COLONYST®**. It is the **world's first complete device to fully automate** the until now fully manual, laborious and error prone **process of sample preparation for rapidly growing microbial identification, using MALDI-TOF** mass spectrometry, either with Bruker MALDI Biotyper™ or with BioMerieux VITEK-MS.

The core technology of the MALDI COLONYST® is based on the previous 8 years' innovation in colony picking devices and liquid sampling robots produced by Robert Kadlec, working within his own company MEREBIT. This company was successfully acquired by BioVendor Group in 2014 and renamed BioVendor Instruments a.s. as part of [BioVendor Group](#) - a major clinical diagnostics distributor in Czech Republic and Slovakia, as well as a worldwide producer of immunoassays, recombinant proteins, antibodies and molecular diagnostics kits - BioVendor Instruments was established as a producer of supporting hardware for these technologies, such as Array Readers, and of instruments for customers and partners outside of the BioVendor Group.

The main concept of the MALDI COLONYST robot was originally brought to the team via general requests from MALDI-TOF users for automation of the previously manual preparation process prior to MALDI-TOF measurement. The **key objectives were to produce a robotic device that would automate, track and record the complete preparation process, while making it well reproducible, fast and able to pick greater quantities of colonies from a single Petri dish in order to better process more complex samples and mixed cultures, without increasing consumable costs, such as pipetting tips etc.**

The MALDI COLONYST® has been extensively tested and co-developed with local Bruker MALDI Biotyper customers such as Dr. J. Hrabák and his team (BIOMEDIC Centre and Faculty Hospital in Pilsen, Czech Republic) as well as with kind cooperation of Bruker, for whom BioVendor is the established local distributor of the MALDI Biotyper. The **MALDI COLONYST® proved capable of meeting all above stated objectives, and by using a newly developed (Patent pending) process of Wet Deposition®, even shows a 10-15% improvement in MALDI identification scores for more difficult microbes. Additionally, robotic Wet Deposition® uses long life liquid deposition needles and therefore significantly saves on the costs on pipetting tips, thus allowing users to pick and identify all interesting colonies from the Petri dish.**

MALDI COLONYST® was officially launched at ECCMID in April 2016 in Amsterdam, NL and officially publicly presented to the MALDI-TOF community at the 5th Czech/Slovak MALDI Biotyper User Meeting in Prague in June 2016. At the same time the MALDI COLONYST® **official webpage** [www.colonyst.com](http://www.colonyst.com) was launched, where technical information can be found and where a live demo and quote can be requested.

MALDI COLONYST® is officially available for new customer deliveries from August 2016 as RUO device, while the IVD version is scheduled for launch before Q1/2017. This device is currently being offered and sold directly via BioVendor and its international offices and current distributor channels, as well as being offered to new partners and distributors worldwide. The current version of MALDI COLONYST® supports 2 MSP target plates (Bruker MALDI Biotyper) and one manually changed Petri dish, but is designed to be easily upgraded to a fully automated device using the Petri dish FEEDER – a robot for 50-200 Petri dishes which will be launched in Q2/2017 at the latest. It will be officially introduced along with the smaller remote device EXPLORER for high resolution selection of colonies with the MALDI COLONYST®, and new SW modules for Colony Counting or Inhibition Zone Reading.

*All technical information can be obtained at the official email address [colonyst@biovendor.com](mailto:colonyst@biovendor.com) or phone +420 725 590 015. This press release has been released by BioVendor – Laboratory Medicine, official reseller of MALDI COLONYST®.*