

- You have the skills necessary to do it.
- You have a lot of resources or money to do it.
- You are the first to do it.

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What is Microfluidics?

Technologies/devices capable of controlling and transferring tiny quantities of liquids to allow biological assays to be integrated and accomplished on a small scale

- Microfluidics is the science of designing and manufacturing devices and processes for manipulation of extremely small volumes of liquid
- Microfluidics promises to minimize the time and cost associated with routine biological analysis while improving reproducibility
- The first wave of micro-laboratories (referred to as $\mu\text{-TAS},$ micro total analysis systems)
- · The next generation of drug discovery tools

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Advantages of Microfluidics over Macro-Scale Lab Operations

• Miniaturization

- Need only a few tens or hundreds of nanoliters of sample and reagent for each process
- Reaction in miniature is more accurate and faster than that on a macro scale
- There is a very high surface-to-volume ratio in channels in microfluidic devices

Automation

- Can be done on standardized chips with little human intervention

Integration

- Can be designed with multiple "on-board" functions with the sample being automatically guided from one place to another on the chip

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The Growth of Microfluidics and Lab-on-a-Chip Market

- · To increase throughput and reproducibility
- To decrease cost and time to do experiments in order to streamline
 and accelerate laboratory assays
- To supply analytical tools and solutions dedicated primarily to the drug development research.
- To speed up and simplify the sample preparation steps in genomic and proteomic experiments
- To offer high-throughput, low-cost versions of traditional research methods

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Microfluidic Systems

- Aqueous flow is generally laminar, not turbulent
- Diffusion is an efficient process for mixing the dissolved contents of two or more fluids
- Particles can also be separated by diffusion according to their size

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High-Throughput Technologies

Test tubes, beakers and other glassware are replaced by microscopic channels in the chip



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Pharmaseq 's Microtransponders



Microfluidic Array Applications

Drivers for Seeking New Detection Modes







Caliper's LabChip® High Throughput **Screening System**





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Caliper's high-throughput AMS 90 SE Electrophoresis system. This assay will analyze nanoliter sample volumes of protein mixtures from 96- and 384-well plates. The assay automatically determines constituent protein sizes and relative concentrations.



Requirements for Microfluidics Product Development

Patent Analysis •

Based on selection of the appropriate patented portfolio to achieve the type of microfluidic processing needed for the individual application requirements

• Surface Chemistry/Materials Analysis

- It is one thing to know the specific microfluidic approach ("How it's done"). It is also critical to assess the environment ("Where it's done") with respect to surface chemistries and possible interactions with materials used in the assay.
- Fluidic Modeling
- Detection
 - How the results of microfluidic interactions on a lab card will be detected, interpreted, and reported.

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