IMPLEMENTATION OF A NOVEL SCREENING TECHNOLOGY: INCREASE ARREST RATES, INCREASE SAVINGS. POTENTIAL TO DECREASE BACKLOGS?

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Backlogs of forensic DNA evidence are a widely recognized issue in the US. In addition, sample types such as touch DNA may only yield valuable data in up to 10-15% of samples processed. Austerity measures and trying to reduce the amount of times a useful result is not obtained has meant that some LEAs will not submit or have reduced the submission of more challenging items for volume crime.

LGC have developed ParaDNA® Screening System as a supportive method for triage of samples. In just 75 minutes, each processed sample collected from a crime scene delivers a '% score' result indicating if there is sufficient human DNA to produce a usable result when submitted for full DNA profiling by the crime lab.

Crime labs implementing ParaDNA® Screening technology are now reporting considerable cost savings not just from screening out but also from improving success/conviction rates where they have been able to screen in items of evidence that would never have been processed based on the previous submissions policies. Navigating the regulatory requirements to gain accreditation has also been a key part of the process to moving such users to 'live' sample submission casework.

The ParaDNA® Instrument is a platform designed by LGC that utilizes their proprietary fluorescent oligonucleotide probe technology, termed HyBeacons™, to deliver innovative assay solutions to support the forensics industry.