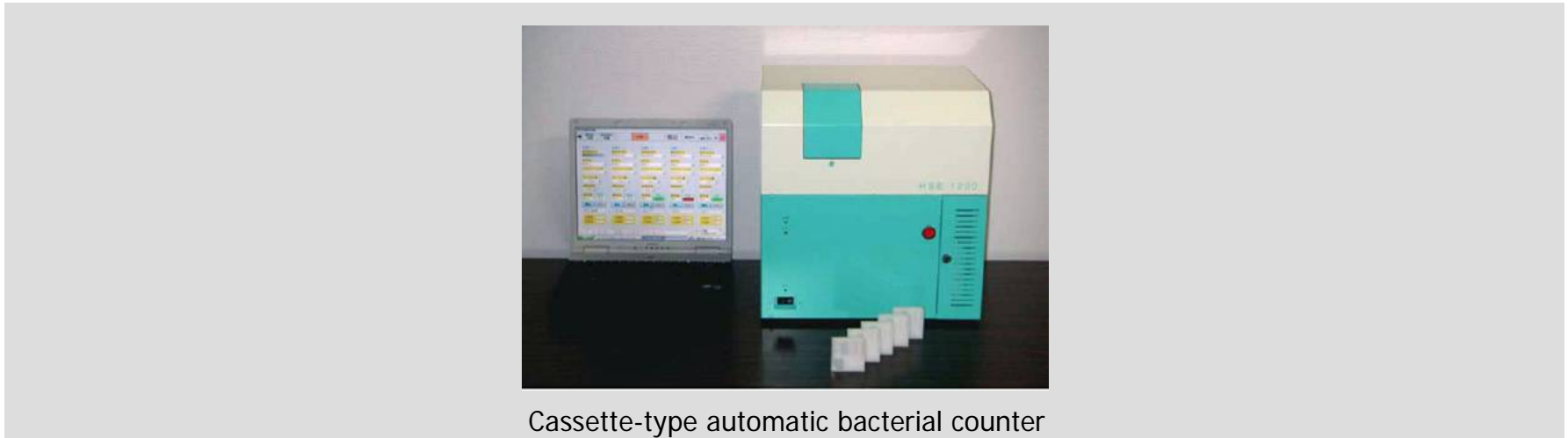


2008/5/22 Release

Development of an automatic device to measure bacteria within 90 minutes for improved food safety & hygiene



Cassette-type automatic bacterial counter

Hitachi, Ltd., and Hitachi Engineering and Service Co., Ltd. have developed a cassette-type automatic measurement device to facilitate quick and easy measurement of the number of bacteria which might be contained in foodstuff, for improved food safety and hygiene. This device measures the number of bacteria using a fluorescent dye and flow cytometry, and the process is fully automated through the use of a disposable cassette with micro-channels designed with MEMS (micro electro mechanical systems) technology. As a result, measurement of bacterial contamination of food samples which previously took 1-2 days can now be simply and automatically performed within 90 minutes by injecting the cassette with a liquid sample and setting it in the device.

The development results of the cassette-type automatic bacterial counter will be presented at FOOMA JAPAN 2008, to be held from 27th to 30th May 2008, at Tokyo Big Sight, Japan.