

# Atlanbio

 Thanks to Tandberg Data, Atlanbio now backs up 750,000 data files from biological analysis, every four hours, each and every day



## Overview

**Company:**  
Atlanbio

**Location:**  
Saint-Nazaire (near Nantes), France

**Business sector:**  
Bio-analysis/Pharmaceutical

**Issues:**  
Massive backup windows and quick restoration required

**Solutions:**  
BAKStor 1000 and StorageLoader LTO 2

**Result:**  
Backup 750,000 files every four hours, every day

### The challenge

As a service provider for the pharmaceutical industry, Atlanbio has the mammoth task of retaining all of its customers' data relating to biological sampling for fifteen years, so that upon request they can pass the data onto clients or to health authorities.

The data results from analysis of human samples, conducted in laboratory environments at a specific point in time, which cannot be recreated later under the same conditions. Hence a high-performance, reliable and secure backup system were key criteria in order to gain approval from the laboratories.

### About Atlanbio

Atlanbio was created in late 2005 on the former Bristol-Myers-Squibb site in Saint Nazaire, near Nantes, France. Formed specifically as a subcontractor for the bio-analysis arm of the business, Atlanbio operates as a CRO (Contract Research Organisation) for laboratories, effectively recording measurements in a lab environment that go on to facilitate new medicine and pharmaceutical advances.

These toxicological analysis help the pharmaceutical laboratories define the optimum dosage for new medicines released onto the market.

Atlanbio today employs thirteen people.



## The issue

Chromatographic and immunochemical techniques are applied to biological samples. These automated tests are carried out in several stages in order to monitor the test product and its effects and ease of absorption into the blood or in animal tissue. The analysis test machinery is fully automated; measurements are taken every second and, for certain analysis such as mass spectrometry, every millionth of a second. This huge amount of data is stored on servers to provide chromatograms for technicians to analyse.

All of this data must be retained by Atlanbio. At any given moment over a period of 15 years, the company must be able to send data results to its clients or to the health authorities, such as AFSSAPS (French agency for the safety of health products). Some applications are very granular and generate numerous files, hence there are over 750,000 files which have to be backed up every four hours, in addition to routine daily backup.

As Atlanbio are dealing with human samples, the reliability, confidentiality and security of the backups are essential criteria. When taking over the bioanalysis department from Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Atlanbio could have inherited that company's storage and backup system. "But that system was far too sophisticated, far too big for our needs and very expensive" explained Christian Nicolas, Atlanbio IT manager.

## Our answer

Christian Nicolas therefore asked his supplier, the Adinfo group, to build a whole IT infrastructure, including a powerful, rapid and reliable storage and backup system. Having already experienced the power and reliability of Tandberg Data solutions within other demanding client environments, Adinfo recommended Tandberg Data's BAKStor 1000 for backup and recovery to disk, capable of simulating a variable dimension virtual tape.

The BAKStor 1000 is an iSCSI appliance which comprises 4 S-ATA disks, is RAID 0, 1 or 5 configurable, with 2 Gigabit Ethernet ports for the aggregation of links or failover and of logical volumes in disks or virtual LTO-2 drives. The frequent backup window requirement made BAKStor's virtual tapes particularly suitable for the Atlanbio challenge, given the number of files to be backed up and the need to optimise storage space. Furthermore, the BAKStor 1000 can restore data almost instantaneously, which could prove invaluable for Atlanbio, for example in the event of a handling error.

"The iSCSI technology has the ability to backup every 4 hours and to restore data from the last 24 hours with four hour deltas", emphasised Loïc Grenapin, technical manager for Adinfo.

Christian Nicolas was convinced by this solution which is easy to use, administer and configure and which can be run equally in both Windows and Linux. In addition to the BAKStor, Atlanbio also adopted the StorageLoader, recommended by Adinfo for its reliability and its small size (1U height).

The StorageLoader (backup robot comprising 1 half-size LTO-2 with 2 removable 4-band magazines, barcode reader and web interface for remote administration) was ideal for the needs of Atlanbio who require large backup capacity but do not require the tape to be changed daily. The combination of tape backup (StorageLoader) and storage on disks (BAKStor) proved to be the perfectly tailored solution.

## The results

The 4-hourly incremental backup is made onto the Bakstor 1000, while the StorageLoader LTO-2 is used for a full backup every night. This allows for a revolving backup on seven tapes, one of which is removed every week for external archiving and data retention.

## The future

Although the combination of BAKStor and StorageLoader is powerful enough to more than serve today's requirements, Christian is heartened by the fact that as the test data continues to grow exponentially, both solutions are future proofed with upgrade paths that allow capacity expansion.

**"Tandberg Data's storage and backup solutions are really efficient, extremely quick, exceptionally compact, reliable and easy to use."**

Christian Nicolas, Atlanbio IT Manager

For more information:

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