

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM INTERPHEX 2026

Navigating Evolving Paradigms in Bioprocessing



INTERPHEX 2026, held at the Javits Center in New York City April 21 through 23, provided an on-the-ground view to the continuing evolution of the bioprocessing landscape. Bringing together engineers, suppliers, and biopharma decision-makers under one roof, the show offered a revealing snapshot of where the industry is heading and how it is getting there. This year's event was notable for the coherence of its signal: across exhibitors, a unified set of themes emerged that are reshaping how biologic drugs are manufactured, monitored, and transported.

The bioprocessing and bioproduction markets continue to undergo fundamental transformation. The industry is navigating a pivotal crossroads: transitioning away from rigid, scale-heavy stainless steel infrastructure toward customizable single-use solutions, while placing a renewed emphasis on continuous bioprocessing, integration, and process intensification

A Continuing Pivot: Single-Use Systems vs. Stainless Steel

Key bioreactor players like ABEC and Meissner demonstrated the force behind single-use technology in the industry with their portfolio narratives.

ABEC continued to set the scale benchmark for single-use systems with its CSR® product line, offering bioreactor working volumes up to 6,000 liters and liquid mixing and media/buffer systems up to 7,000 liters, which effectively doubled the productive capacity achievable in a comparable floor area relative to conventional systems. It is worth noting that bags of this scale present real irradiation challenges due to impeller rods and the practicalities of folding at large volumes. This technical consideration remains an open engineering problem for suppliers and users alike.

Meissner highlighted its strong domestic sourcing foundation, underscoring that its fully U.S.-based manufacturing and supply chain insulates customers from the geopolitical supply disruptions that have plagued the industry in recent years. Meissner's domestic manufacturing focus is reinforced by the company's recently announced \$250 million investment in a new manufacturing facility in Athens, Georgia, expected to commence operations in 2026. The company is making it clear that its commitment to single-use technology spans the bioprocessing continuum from 3,000 L bioreactor bag scale to upstream and downstream assemblies, filters, and bulk drug substance management products.

Supplier Types on the Rise: “Integrators” and “Customizers”

Fascinating sub-sectors have emerged in the biomanufacturing space: the “integrators” and “customizers.” Rather than manufacturing base materials, these companies source components across the market and assemble them into complete, custom products for their clients.

Cobetter is actively offering extensive single-use assemblies and integration. Lepure, meanwhile, is bypassing standard catalog offerings to focus heavily on direct CDMO customization, claiming turnaround times of less than one month.

Unlike standard welded options, 3C's laser-cut bags and paths support highly complex geometries, providing the precision needed for specialized upstream and downstream operations. Laser cutting technology also eliminates the need for customized molds to be developed for each program; thereby, streamlining production and introducing cost and time efficiencies customers can realize.

For customers navigating the single-use landscape, the assembly, integration, and customization

layers are increasingly where differentiation lies. These new models reduce the procurement burden on CDMOs and biotech manufacturers and shorten time-to-operation.

Continuous Bioprocessing and Process Intensification

If stainless steel was defined by scale, single-use and modern bioprocessing are defined by control. The drive toward continuous bioprocessing and process intensification was a dominant theme at INTERPHEX 2026, with an emphasis on removing the need for intermediate storage containers and mitigating risk.

Lisure's continuous downstream processing unit, the LetsGo 3.1, targets large commercial-scale manufacturing. The key to this advancement is highly sophisticated orchestration and control software that harmonizes the entire fluid path.

Continuous processing is, of course, impossible without real-time data, and Mettler Toledo



showcased advanced probe and sensor technologies tailored for Process Analytical Technology (PAT), providing the continuous feedback loops necessary to run these systems safely. PAT is the connective tissue of continuous and intensified bioprocessing. Without reliable, real-time measurement of critical process parameters, continuous processes cannot be safely orchestrated, deviation cannot be caught early, and the promise of intermediate storage elimination cannot be realized.

True continuous bioprocessing across upstream and downstream unit operations remains an active and somewhat open arena: no single supplier can yet claim to have solved it comprehensively. What is clear is that the path forward runs through the convergence of improved sensors, sophisticated control software, and purpose-built hardware. The companies building at each of these layers are increasingly aware that interoperability will be a prerequisite for customer adoption.

Engineering Companies and the CDMO Relationship: A Signal for Strategic Targeting

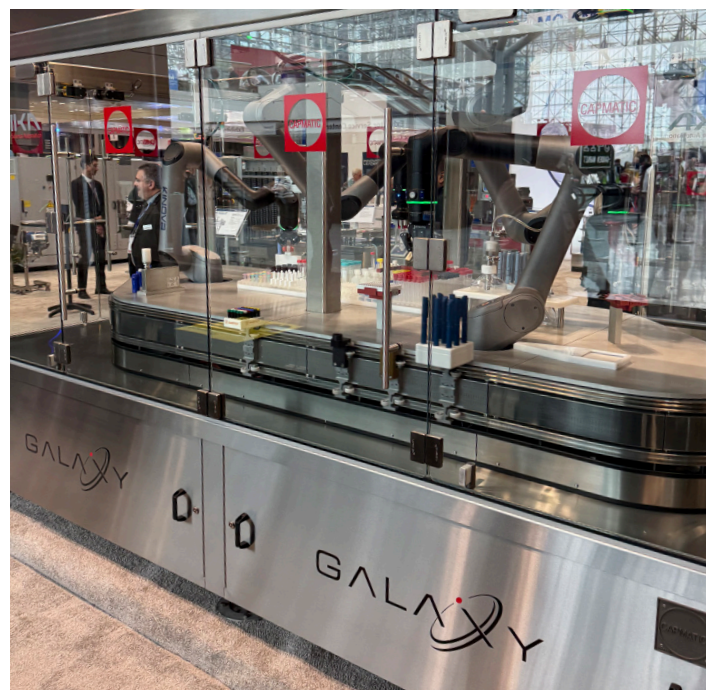
A theme that cut across many pillars of the event was the growing strategic importance of engineering companies in facilitating, and often locking in, the transition from stainless steel to single-use. When a CDMO or biotech manufacturer decides to convert a facility, they typically engage a specialized engineering firm to manage the transition.

Grifols Engineering made a notable showing at the conference, indicating a deliberate pivot toward offering its internal bioprocessing engineering expertise, honed over decades of designing and building Grifols' own plasma derivatives manufacturing operations, as an external service to the broader biopharma industry. This pivot

establishes a meaningful competitive entry: Grifols brings genuine operational credibility from running cGMP facilities under FDA and EMA scrutiny, not just engineering consultancy from the outside looking in.

Strategic Outlook

- **Near-Term Opportunities:**
Supply chain security and integrator dominance purchasing behavior will be dictated by supply chain reliability and speed-to-market. Consequently, suppliers who can boast localized manufacturing, or integrators who promise sub-one-month customization turnaround times, will win outsized market share. Competitors and component manufacturers must realize that their primary customers are no longer just the end-user pharma companies, but the engineering integrators who design the foundation-state facility.
- **Long-Term Outlook:**
The physical limitations of single-use systems means the industry will pivot from "scaling up" to "scaling out." Process intensification and continuous bioprocessing will become



the definitive standard. Instead of utilizing massive stainless steel vats, facilities will rely on smaller, continuous loop systems governed by highly advanced PAT sensors. Suppliers highlighting process orchestration solutions will be seen as differentiated from legacy suppliers as customers increasingly see the benefits of process control across all unit operations.

Competitor Positioning

To survive these shifting tides, legacy equipment manufacturers must adapt and emerging players must strategize.

- How can you adapt your product portfolio to support the need for seamless integration into workflows?
- Beyond raw volume, how are suppliers prioritizing customization, control, and process orchestration to remain competitive?



The BroadBranch Advisors Impact

BroadBranch helps clients answer these questions through:

- Voice-of-customer and end-user research
- Competitive landscape and positioning analysis
- Technology adoption and disruption assessments
- Commercial diligence and growth strategy development

In an environment defined by complexity, integration, and rapid innovation, independent market intelligence has never been more critical.



Frank Criscione
Manager
frank@brbradv.com



Courtney Matson
Managing Partner
courtney@brbradv.com



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