



Your local **gas generation** partner

Peak Scientific Gas Solutions

Choosing the right set-up for GC



A **PEAK**  gas generation brand

Gas generators provide a number of benefits



Convenience

Gas on-demand, no cylinders to change or maintain supply stocks



Consistency

Consistent gas quality and supply, no impurities or running out of gas



Economy

Eliminate on-going costs of cylinders, manage lifetime running costs



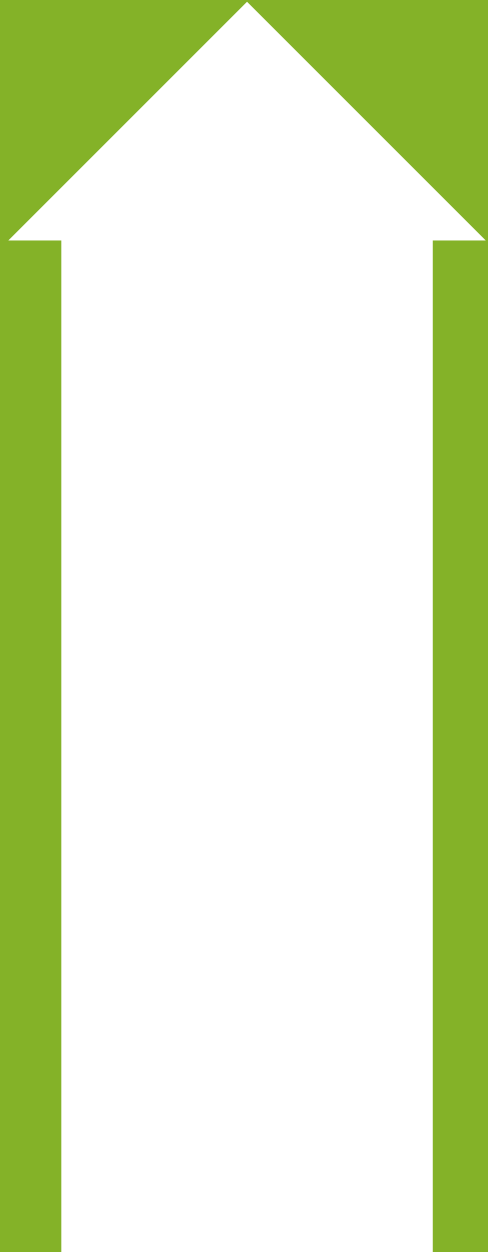
Safety

No pressurized compressed gas cylinders in your lab



Green

No repeated gas deliveries, energy efficient



Gas Safety



Compressed gases can be dangerous

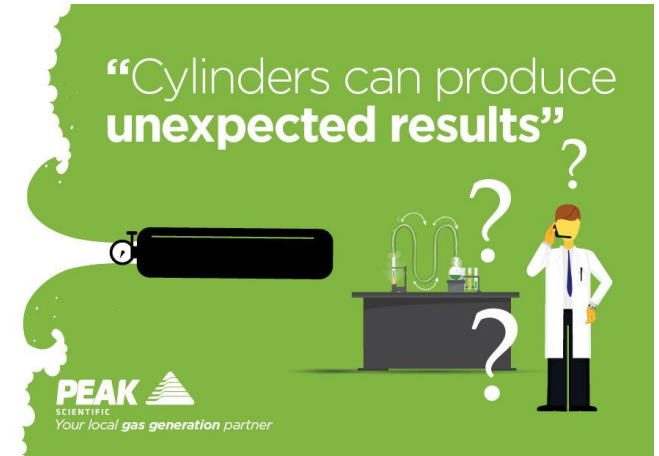
- Nitrogen, helium, argon – Risk of asphyxiation
- Hydrogen, acetylene – Risk of fire/explosion
- Cylinders contain up to 9000L compressed gas
- 1L LN2 produces 696L N2 gas

Effect of release of inert gas into the lab – O₂ displacement

O ₂ (Vol %)	Effects and Symptoms
18-21	No discernible symptoms can be detected by the individual. A risk assessment must be undertaken to understand the causes and determine whether it is safe to continue working.
11-18	Reduction of physical and intellectual performance without the sufferer being aware .
8-11	Possibility of fainting within a few minutes without prior warning. Risk of death below 11%.
6-8	Fainting occurs after a short time. Resuscitation possible if carried out immediately.
0-6	Fainting almost immediate. Brain damage , even if rescued.

H2 Cylinders

- H2 cylinders are potentially dangerous
 - 9000L of stored gas at 200barg in a cylinder
 - 150cc and 7barg in Precision SL
- Hydrogen and cylinder storage are increasingly regulated
 - The cost of installation can be high as H2 cylinders need to be moved further away from the lab
- Be aware of the hidden costs of cylinders
 - Delivery
 - Rental
 - Regulator replacement
 - Line maintenance
 - Frequent in-line trap replacement
- Generators can be factored in to new lab installations to save cost
- Resources on [cylinders](#) and [H2 safety](#)



Safeguard your hydrogen supply by using a generator

“A key benefit for us has been the elimination of the safety hazards associated with compressed gas cylinder handling.”

Kerri Heckrow, NPD Lab Manager, Evergreen Packaging, NC, USA



H2 generator safety

- Low stored volume
- Low pressure
- Continuous monitoring of pressure
 - Over-pressure
 - Under-pressure
- Auto-shutdown
 - External leak
 - Internal leak
- Diagnostics at start-up
- Cell shut-down in case of problem



Calculating gas requirements for GC

Main detector gas requirements

		FID	FPD	NPD	ECD	TCD	SCD	MSD
Combustion gases	H2	● 30-50	● 50-75	● 2-5			● 40-100	
	Zero Air	● 300-500	● 60-100	● 60			● 40-100	
Makeup gas	N2	● 10-40	● 60	● 5-10	Trace ● 60			
Reference gas	H2					● 10 - 75		
	N2					●		

- FID, FPD, NPD & SCD – Same basic function – burn a flame
- ECD – Make-up must be N2 Trace (hydrocarbon-free)
- TCD – reference gas is same as Carrier gas

Calculating the requirement

If no information is available, use worst-case flow rates to calculate

Eg. 3x FID = 150cc/min H₂, 120cc/min N₂, 1500cc/min Zero Air.

Eg. 2x FID + 1x ECD = 100cc/min H₂, 140cc/min N₂ Trace, 1000cc/min Zero Air

If method data is available:

Extract the information from the method information provided

At first sight this can look confusing

Look for key information

Acquisition methods

Page 2 of 10

15.02.2016 8:23:11 Method: Method embedded in C:\Clarus GC
2\DATA\VDK\February2016\12-008.rst

Detector Parameters

	Detector A	Detector B
Detector	FID	ECD
Range	1	1
Time Constant	200	200
Autozero	ON	OFF
Polarity		

Heated Zones

Injector A:
Setpoint : 110 °C

Injector B:
Setpoint : OFF

Detector A : 250°C
Detector B : 150°C
Auxiliary (NONE) : 0°C

Oven Program

Cryogenics : Off
Initial Temp : 80°C
Initial Hold : 17.00 min

Total Run Time : 17.00 min
Maximum Temp : 240°C
Equilibration Time : 0.5 min

Timed Events

There are no timed events in the method

Real Time Plot Parameters

	Pages	Offset (mV)	Scale (mV)
Channel B	1	0.000	1000.000

method: C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\ALC.M
Modified on: 10/17/2014 at 8:46:57 AM

Agilent 7890 GC

Oven
Equilibration Time 0.2 min
Oven Program On
50 °C for 1 min
then 5 °C/min to 80 °C for 0 min
then 20 °C/min to 300 °C for 5 min
Run Time 23 min

No Injectors

Front SS Inlet H2
Mode Split
Heater On 285 °C
Pressure On 10 psi
Total Flow On 287.34 mL/min
Septum Purge Flow On 3 mL/min
Gas Saver Off
Split Ratio 50 :1
Split Flow 278.77 mL/min

Column #1
Ultra 1 Methyl Siloxane: 2655.76598
Ultra 1 Methyl Siloxane
325 °C: 25 m x 320 µm x 0.52 µm
In: Front SS Inlet H2
Out: Front Detector FID

(Initial) 50 °C
Pressure 10 psi
Flow 5.5753 mL/min
Average Velocity 92.07 cm/sec
Holdup Time 0.45256 min
Pressure Program On
10 psi for 0 min
Run Time 23 min

Front Detector FID
Heater On 300 °C
H2 Flow On 35 mL/min
Air Flow On 350 mL/min
Makeup Flow On 30 mL/min
Const Col + Makeup Off
Flame On
Electrometer On

Acquisition methods

Page 2 of 10

15.02.2016 8:23:11 Method: Method embedded in C:\Clarus GC
2\DATA\VDK\February2016\12-008.rst

Detector Parameters

	Detector A	Detector B
Detector	FID	ECD
Range	1	1
Time Constant	200	200
Autozero	ON	OFF
Polarity		

Heated Zones

Injector A:
Setpoint : 110 °C

Injector B:
Setpoint : OFF

Detector A : 250°C
Detector B : 150°C
Auxiliary (NONE) : 0°C

Oven Program

Cryogenics : Off
Initial Temp : 80°C
Initial Hold : 17.00 min

Total Run Time : 17.00 min
Maximum Temp : 240°C
Equilibration Time : 0.5 min

Timed Events

There are no timed events in the method

Real Time Plot Parameters

	Pages	Offset (mV)	Scale (mV)
Channel B	1	0.000	1000.000

No flow
information
given – use
maximum flows
for calculations

```
method: C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\ALC.M
Modified on: 10/17/2014 at 8:46:57 AM
=====
Agilent 7890 GC
=====
Oven
Equilibration Time      0.2 min
Oven Program            On
  50 °C for 1 min
  then 5 °C/min to 80 °C for 0 min
  then 20 °C/min to 300 °C for 5 min
Run Time                23 min

No Injectors

Front SS Inlet H2
Mode                    Split
Heater                  On      285 °C
Pressure                On      10 psi
Total Flow               On      287.34 mL/min
Septum Purge Flow       On      3 mL/min
Gas Saver               Off
Split Ratio             50 :1
Split Flow               278.77 mL/min

Column #1
Ultra 1 Methyl Siloxane: 2655.76598
Ultra 1 Methyl Siloxane
325 °C; 25 m x 320 µm x 0.52 µm
In: Front SS Inlet H2
Out: Front Detector FID

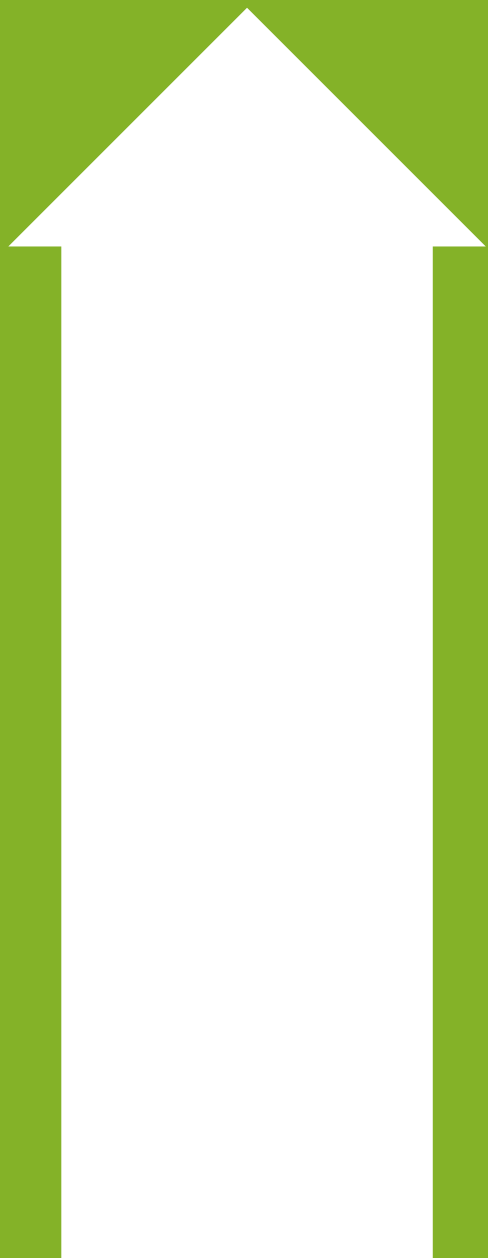
(Initial)               50 °C
Pressure                10 psi
Flow                    5.5753 mL/min
Average Velocity         92.07 cm/sec
Holdup Time              0.45256 min
Pressure Program         On
  10 psi for 0 min
Run Time                23 min

Front Detector FID
Heater                  On      300 °C
H2 Flow                 On      35 mL/min
Air Flow                 On      350 mL/min
Makeup Flow             On      30 mL/min
Const Col + Makeup      Off
Flame                   On
Electrometer            On
```

Flow
information
given – use
indicated flows
for calculations

Calculations - Recap

1. Count the number of each detector type (remember some GCs may have 2 detectors) and add together the required flows of H₂, N₂ and Zero Air.
2. If specific flow details are not available, use 'worst case' flow rates.
3. Use the [GC Gas Calculator](#) to document the information and confirm with the customer



Carrier gas

Carrier gas flow rates

The aim of calculating the carrier gas flow rate is to find the '**total flow**' of the carrier gas.

The '**total flow**' is the flow of carrier gas through the GC inlet

Knowing the '**total flow**' allows us to recommend the correct generator(s) to support the GC

Most GCs use a split/splitless injector

The calculation of flow rates differs depending on whether the method uses ***split*** injection or ***splitless*** injection

Carrier Gas

Peak would always recommend either N2 Trace or H2 Trace

Zero air cannot be used for carrier gas

Can be more difficult to calculate if you try to go into too much detail...

Keep it simple...

Getting relevant flow information

Find the **total carrier gas** flow for each GC

If multiple methods used on 1 GC, calculate using the method with the highest total flow

Don't try to calculate the Total flow – this should be easily available from the method

If helium carrier gas is used and being converted to hydrogen, the total flow must be increased by 25%

For total flow of 100cc/min helium, the customer will require 125cc/min hydrogen

If the customer is using helium carrier gas and is converting to Nitrogen the flow will stay the same

Acquisition methods

Acquisition methods

method: C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\ALC .M
Modified on: 10/17/2014 at 8:46:57 AM

=====

Agilent 7890 GC

=====

Oven
Equilibration Time 0.2 min
Oven Program On
 50 °C for 1 min
 then 5 °C/min to 80 °C for 0 min
 then 20 °C/min to 300 °C for 5 min
Run Time 23 min

No Injectors

Front SS Inlet H2
Mode Split
Heater On 285 °C
Pressure On 10 psi
Total Flow On 287.34 mL/min
Septum Purge Flow On 3 mL/min
Gas Saver Off
Split Ratio 50 :1
Split Flow 278.77 mL/min

Column #1
Ultra 1 Methyl Siloxane: 2655.76598
Ultra 1 Methyl Siloxane
325 °C: 25 m x 320 µm x 0.52 µm
In: Front SS Inlet H2
Out: Front Detector FID

(Initial) 50 °C
Pressure 10 psi
Flow 5.5753 mL/min
Average Velocity 92.07 cm/sec
Holdup Time 0.45256 min
Pressure Program On
 10 psi for 0 min
Run Time 23 min

Front Detector FID
Heater On 300 °C
H2 Flow On 35 mL/min
Air Flow On 350 mL/min
Makeup Flow On 30 mL/min
Const Col + Makeup Off
Flame On
Electrometer On

Acquisition methods

H2 Total flow = 287 cc/min

H2 detector flow = 35 cc/min

Total H2 requirement = 322 cc/min

N2 requirement = 30 cc/min

Zero Air requirement = 350 cc/min

```
method: C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\ALC.M
Modified on: 10/17/2014 at 8:46:57 AM
=====
                        Agilent 7890 GC
=====

Oven
Equilibration Time      0.2 min
Oven Program            On
    50 °C for 1 min
    then 5 °C/min to 80 °C for 0 min
    then 20 °C/min to 300 °C for 5 min
Run Time                23 min

No Injectors

Front SS Inlet H2
Mode                    Split
Heater                  On      285 °C
Pressure                On      10 psi
Total Flow               On      287.34 mL/min
Septum Purge Flow       On      3 mL/min
Gas Saver                Off
Split Ratio             50 :1
Split Flow               278.77 mL/min

Column #1
Ultra 1 Methyl Siloxane: 2655.76598
Ultra 1 Methyl Siloxane
325 °C: 25 m x 320 µm x 0.52 µm
In: Front SS Inlet H2
Out: Front Detector FID

(Initial)               50 °C
Pressure                10 psi
Flow                    5.5753 mL/min
Average Velocity         92.07 cm/sec
Holdup Time              0.45256 min
Pressure Program         On
    10 psi for 0 min
Run Time                23 min

Front Detector FID
Heater                  On      300 °C
H2 Flow                 On      35 mL/min
Air Flow                 On      350 mL/min
Makeup Flow              On      30 mL/min
Const Col + Makeup      Off
Flame                    On
Electrometer             On
```

Calculations - recap

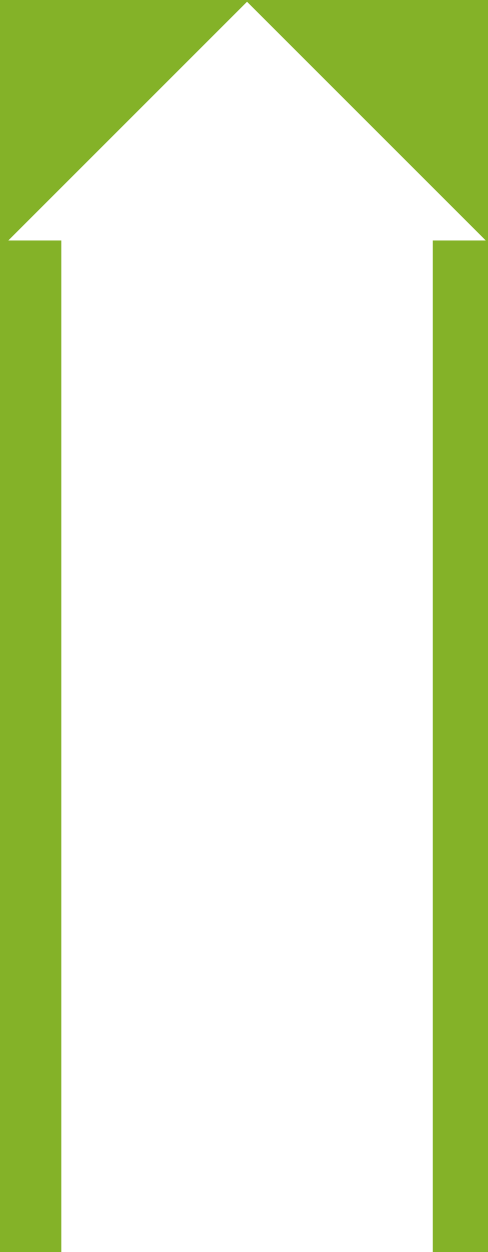
1. Get the highest **total flow** for each GC or GC-MS
2. Count the number of each detector type (remember some GCs can have 2 detectors) and add together the required flows of H₂, N₂ and Zero Air.

If no info provided re. specific detector flow details, use 'worst case' flow rates.

If you do not know the total carrier gas flow rate try to find other methods online to get an indication of approximate flow requirements

Add **total flow** and **detector flow** together

3. Use the [GC Gas Calculator](#) to document the information and confirm the total gas requirement



**Helium conversion to H₂ &
resources available**

There's no need for us to have helium cylinders on site and no need to change air or helium cylinders at all, so that reduces instrument down time and cylinder manual handling risks.

Ian Bennington, Senior Analyst, Nerudia, UK

Assumptions

1. You/your customer wants to change carrier gas
2. You/your customer can change carrier gas
3. You/your customer understands that conversion might take some time
4. You/your customer understands the process of conversion

Online Resources

- Agilent Method Translation software
- Restek EZGC method calculator
- Peak GC method list

The screenshot shows the Agilent Method Translator interface. It compares 'Original Method Parameters' (Gas: He) with 'Calculated Method Parameters' (Gas: H2). Key parameters include Length (30 m), Inner Diameter (320 µm), Film Thickness (0.25 µm), Phase Ratio (320), Inlet Pressure (7.3429 psi / 4.6414 psi), Outlet Flow (1.875 mL/min / 1.875 mL/min), Average Velocity (26.526 cm/sec / 36.26 cm/sec), Outlet Pressure (14.696 psi / 14.696 psi), Holdup Time (1.8040 min / 1.3789 min), and Outlet Velocity (33.681 cm/sec / 42.114 cm/sec). It also shows a table of ramps and the total run time (28 min / 19.021 min).

Gas Chromatography Method List

The list below shows methods which have been rewritten to use Hydrogen or Nitrogen carrier gas for GC as an alternative to Helium. The list is correct as of the date at the foot, however, these methods are being rewritten regularly so if you cannot find your customer method below please contact peaksupport@peakscientific.com. Please note that customers using methods which need helium can also use Precision gas generators for detector or make-up gas.

ASTM Method	Method Title	He	H2	N2
D2549	Standard Test Method for Separation of Representative Aromatics and Nonaromatics Fractions of High-Boiling Oils by Station Chromatography	✓		
D2887	Standard Test Method for Boiling Range Distribution of Petroleum Fractions by Gas Chromatography, 2	✓	✓	✓
D4815	Standard Test Method for Determination of HTSE, ETHE, BAME, DPM, Tetraaryl Amine and C1 to C4 Aromatics in Gasoline by Gas Chromatography	✓	✓	✓
D6332	Standard Test Method for Boiling Range Distribution of Petroleum Distillates in Boiling Range from 100°C to 300°C by Gas Chromatography	✓	✓	✓
D6729	Standard Test Method for Determination of Individual Components in Spark Ignition Engine Fuels by 100-Hexa Capillary High Resolution Gas Chromatography	✓	✓	
D7096	Standard Test Method for Determination of the Boiling Range Distribution of Gasoline by Wide-Flow Capillary Gas Chromatography	✓		
D7213	Standard Test Method for Boiling Range Distribution of Petroleum Distillates in the Boiling Range from 100°C to 650°C by Gas Chromatography	✓	✓	✓
D7398	Standard Test Method for Boiling Range Distribution of Fatty Acid Methyl Esters (FAMES) in the Boiling Range from 100 to 650°C by Gas Chromatography	✓		
D7500	Standard Test Method for Determination of Boiling Range Distribution of Distillates and Lubricating Base Oils in Boiling Range from 100°C to 750°C by Gas Chromatography	✓	✓	✓
D7798	Standard Test Method for Boiling Range Distribution of Petroleum Distillates with Final Boiling Points up to 538°C by Ultra-Fast Gas Chromatography (UFGC)	✓		
D7807	Standard Test Method for Determination of Boiling Range Distribution of Hydrocarbon and Sulfur Components of Petroleum Distillates by Gas Chromatography and Chemiluminescence Detection	✓		
D5501	Standard Test Method for Determination of Ethanol and Methanol Content in Fuels Containing Greater than 20% Ethanol by Gas Chromatography	✓	✓	

The screenshot shows the EZGC Method Translator interface. It compares 'Original' (Carrier Gas: Helium) and 'Translation' (Carrier Gas: Helium) parameters. Key parameters include Column Length (30.00 m), Inner Diameter (0.25 mm), Film Thickness (0.25 µm), Phase Ratio (250), Control Parameters (Column Flow: 1.40 mL/min, Average Velocity: 42.74 cm/sec, Holdup Time: 1.17 min, Inlet Pressure: 11.42 psi, Outlet Pressure: 0.00 psi), Oven Program (Isothermal: 40°C, 1 min), Control Method (Constant Flow), and Results (Run Time: 36.12 min, Speed: 2.83 x).

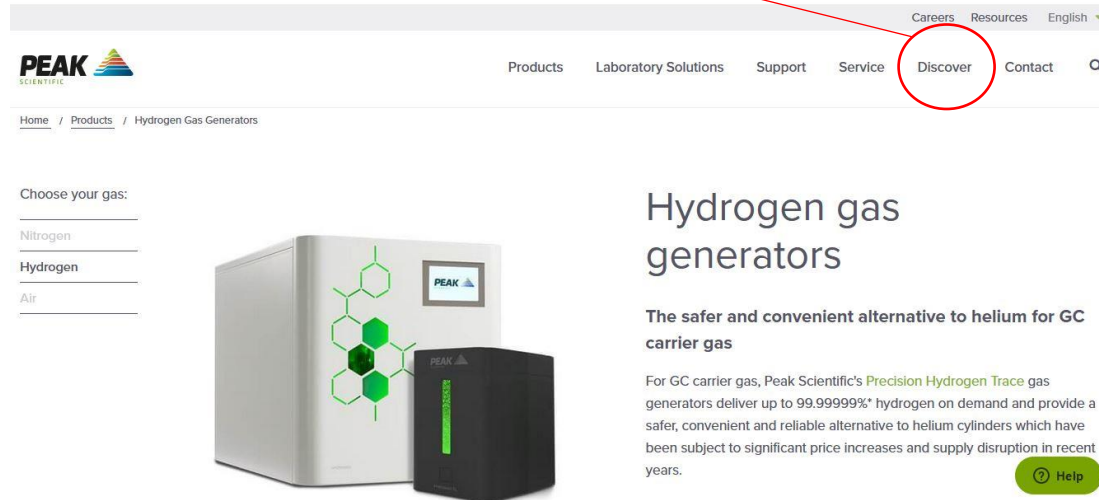
The screenshot shows the EZGC Flow Calculator interface. It displays 'Carrier Gas' (Helium) and 'Column' parameters (Length: 30.00 m, Inner Diameter: 0.25 mm, Film Thickness: 0.25 µm, Temperature: 40.00 °C). Control Parameters include Column Flow (1.40 mL/min), Average Velocity (42.74 cm/sec), Holdup Time (1.17 min), Inlet Pressure (11.42 psi), and Outlet Pressure (0.00 psi). Inlet parameters show Temperature (250.00 °C), Liner Volume (1.00 mL), Flow (1.40 mL/min), and Splitless Valve Time (1.1 to 1.5 min). It includes buttons for 'Use MT Original Values' and 'Use MT Translation Values', and a 'DOWNLOAD EZGC Method Translator and Flow Calculator' link.



Online Resources from Peak

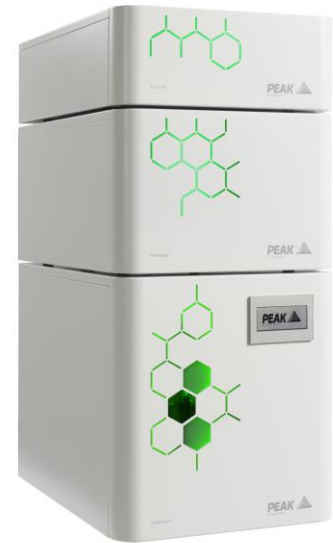
- [Step by step guide](#) to changing carrier gas
- [Application notes](#) highlighting change of carrier gas for GC & GC-MS

www.peakscientific.com



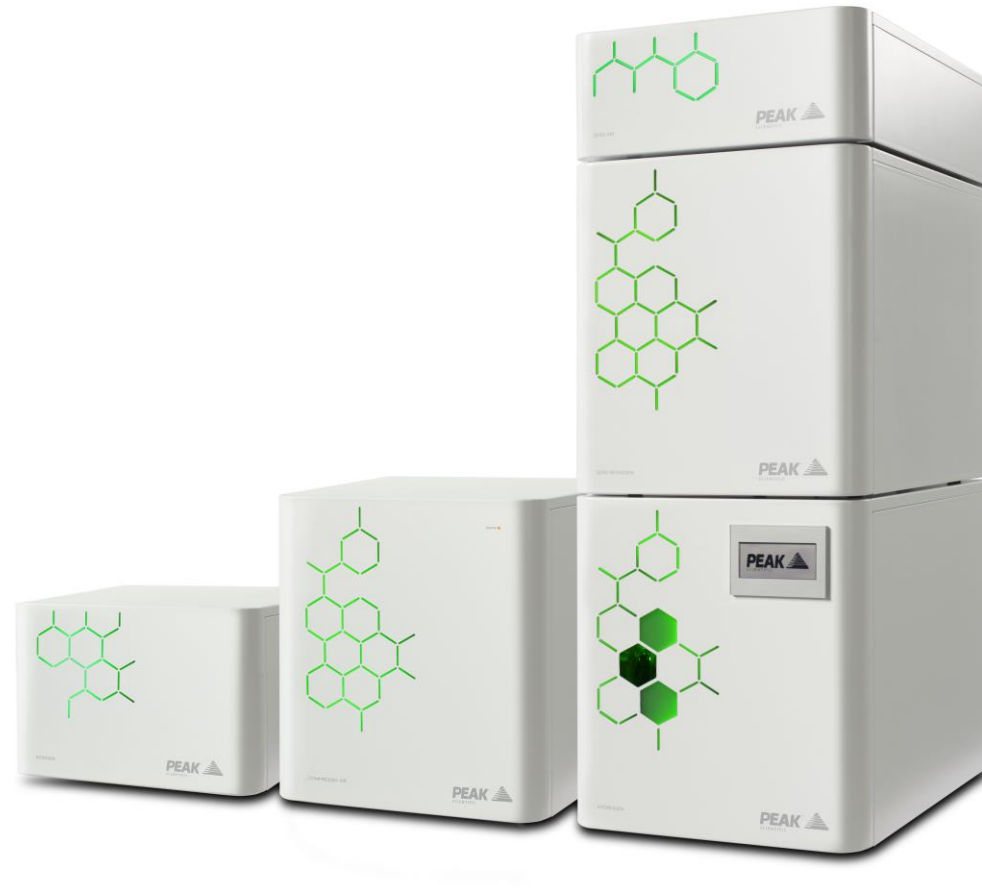
Precision range

- H₂, N₂ and Z_A for carrier gas and detector gas
- Stackable, modular
- Low maintenance
- Low cost of ownership
- Easy to use – plug and play
- Can be configured to meet your laboratory's gas requirements



Questions?

Q&A Session



Thank you

www.peakscientific.com

Our Vision:

To exceed the expectation of our Customers, Colleagues and Suppliers

Our Values:

- **Respect** customer, supplier, colleague
- **Restless** constantly striving to improve
- **Freedom with responsibility**
- **Fun & passion** in everything we do

