Agilent Technologies

Upgrading MS ChemStation Software
MS ChemStations using GP-IB (HP-IB) control

> **The latest version of MS ChemStation supporting GP-IB instrument communication for upgrades is G1701BA Rev. B.02.00**

A software upgrade product is available to registered owners of G1034C and G1701AA/BA MS ChemStation software. There are, however, hardware and PC compatibility issues that you should investigate for your particular system. Also, newer, faster PCs, the absence of ISA slots on most new PCs, and huge replacement disk drives can cause problems for the user doing his/her own upgrade.

- The most recent MS ChemStation fully supporting HP-IB is **G1701BA, version B.02.00**, which runs only on Windows NT 4.0 with Service Pack 6a.

- The *minimum* PC configuration for this system is a 120 MHz Pentium processor with 48 Mbytes RAM, an 800 MByte Disk and CD-ROM. A much larger disk is recommended, but the BIOS on older PCs will frequently limit the size that can be recognized on a large hard disk.

- Upgrades are supported only on the original HP PC bundle purchased with your system, or on a specially tested high-speed PC bundle (see below). Some faster PCs (500 MHz and above) are known to cause communications problems and should not be used for GP-IB.

- A special PC bundle (G1729DA option 710) can be ordered. This bundle will provide a tested and supported solution for customers who have upgradable HP-IB MSD systems (see below). The bundle includes a Compaq Evo D510 with monitor and printer, a PCI GP-IB card (82350 A/B), G1701BA software upgrade (B.02.00) and the NT 4.0 operating system. This engineered solution is recommended, since GP-IB communication with untested PC models is frequently problematic, and cannot be fully supported. This option will be available for only a limited time, because of the life expectancy of NT and the

availability of a PC that supports NT. Neither G1701BA nor GP-IB instrument control will be tested or supported on Windows® 2000.

- Supported printers are LaserJet 6P (installed in the standard mode, not enhanced mode) and LaserJets 4000, 4050 and 2100 (using the PCL5e driver). Certain earlier LaserJet models are expected to work, but have not been tested. DeskJet printers are not supported and are known to cause problems.

- Supported Gas Chromatographs are the Agilent 6890 and the HP 5890 GC (Series II only). The Agilent 6890N is not supported on G1701BA.

- G1701BA B.02.00 will communicate using either an 82341C GP-IB card (requires an ISA slot in the PC) or an 82350A/B GPIB Card (requires a PCI slot). Many older ChemStations were shipped with an HP82335 card. If you have any MSD other than a 5973, it is likely that you have this older HP-IB card. You should check before ordering the update, and purchase the new GP-IB card at the same time.

- In addition, G1701BA will NOT talk to the SmartCard I MS interface. Most 5970 and 5971 instruments were sold with a SmartCard I. If you have not already upgraded the SmartCard on these early models, it is too late, as these parts are no longer available from Agilent. This means that a 5971 or 5970 MSD with SmartCard I cannot be upgraded to G1701BA control. (See note below)

Assuming that you have the appropriate PC configuration, a supported GP-IB card for the PC, an MSD with a SmartCard II interface, and a valid license and registration number for G1701AA/BA or G1034C, you can order the upgrade software product, G1617AA (G1701AJ for the Japanese version). This upgrade includes a complete copy of G1701BA, Rev. B.02.00 on CD-ROM with manuals, but **does not** include Windows NT, NT Service Pack 6a, installation, or telephone software support.

Purchasing Agilent installation and phone support is recommended.

NOTE: If you are not sure of the SmartCard version on an older instrument, you may verify the version. From within the Tuning and Diagnostic panel, enter the following command on the command line:

```
SCQUERY "*IDN?" <enter>
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One of the following responses will appear above the command line:

HP597xx,0,1.xx   ← SmartCard I
HP597xx,0,2.xx   ← SmartCard II