

## Clear Strategy™ Screen I MD1-14

A 6 × 4 matrix screen\* that offers a more rational, logical and flexible approach to crystallization experiments.

The kit contains 24 stock solutions (10 mL) and five pH'd 1M buffers allowing full control of the pH of the screen solutions and facilitating cryoprotection and potential incorporation of anomalous scatterers

MD1-14 is presented as a 34 x 10<sup>†</sup> mL stock conditions (10 x 10 mL of 5 different pH'd buffers).

### Features of Clear Strategy™ Screen I:

- Allows user defined pH.
- Uncoupling of pH from screen.
- Aids rational design of subsequent trials
- Maintains 'folding homogeneity' of protein.
- Provides cryoprotection of crystals.
- Provides potential anomalous scattering centres.
- Interchangeable components.

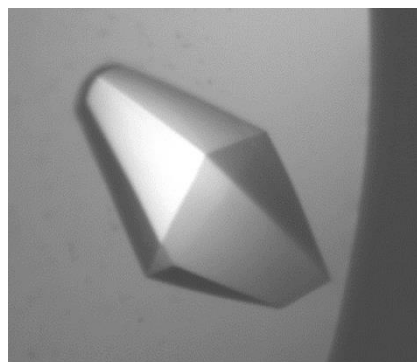
### Introduction

Clear Strategy™ Screens are designed to offer a more individual and alternative approach to crystallization problems. Their 'inherently simple design and their flexible nature' provide a logical platform for further modification and optimization of crystallization experiments.

**Clear Strategy™ Screen I (CSSI)** was designed with the following principles in mind:

1. Enzyme proteins as a target.
2. Full control of screen solution pH.
3. Cryoprotection of crystals.
4. Rational planning of further experiments.
5. Provision of potential anomalous scattering centres.

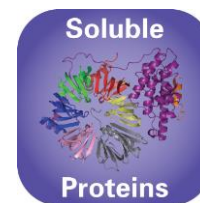
One of the main principles behind the formulation of the CSSI screen was to increase the rate of successful crystallization of enzymatic proteins. It yielded crystals for several nuclear receptor complexes<sup>1</sup>, proteins involved in the process of bacterial sporulation, fragments of fibrinogen and growth factors. Crystals of a given protein were often obtained simultaneously in several different conditions. Recently, the ability to control pH was used successfully in the optimization of the crystallization of the 70S ribosome complexed with mRNA and tRNA.



Crystal of the AAA domain of an ATP dependent protease, FtsH, grown using CSSI. Kryzywda *et al* (2002), *Acta Cryst.* **D58**, 1066

\* Developed by Dr. A M Brzozowski and J. Walton from the Structural Biology Laboratory at The University of York and all kits produced are under an exclusive licence from The University of York, UK.

† Our tubes are overfilled to 11 mL.



### pH control

One of the most important parameters in the crystallization process is pH. The formulation of both Clear Strategy™ Screens at 90% of their final volumes leaves the choice of the pH of the screen to the user. Typically the pH of 0.9 mL of the screen solution can be adjusted by the addition of 0.1 mL of 1M stock buffer.

The starting pH depends upon prior knowledge of each protein's properties, such as purification characteristics, isoelectric point, solubility/stability, pH-aggregation dependence estimated by dynamic light scattering (DLS) and previous crystallization experience with related proteins.

If the optimum pH is unclear, cacodylate buffer at pH 6.5 can be used as a first choice. This covers a broad plateau of pKa values of individual amino acids and provides additional protection against potential specific protein aggregation caused by free -SH groups.

Clear Strategy™ Screen I shows that the rational use of pH can accelerate successful crystallogenesis through the minimum number of trials.

### Cryoprotection

The CSSI simple but efficient 6 × 4 matrix was designed with some built in provision for the straightforward cryoprotection of any resultant crystals. Crystals obtained with PEGs of 2000 and 4000 MW may be cryo-protected using the same PEGs at their concentrations (app. 30%-35% w/v). Potential cryoprotection of the crystals grown with PEG 8000 and 20,000 has been facilitated by the introduction of additional PEGs of smaller molecular weights. Both PEG 1000 and 550 MW are good cryoprotectants at higher concentrations.

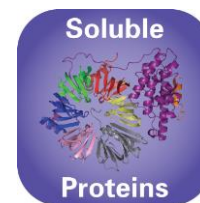
### Rational design of further experiments

One of the main aims of the **Clear Strategy™ Screen I** formulation is that the underlying principles should be very transparent to the user. A simple matrix of different PEGs Vs different salts combined with simultaneous control of pH enables both easy interpretation of results and planning of the next experiments. A new set of conditions can easily be achieved by an increase in the salt or PEG concentration, a shift towards one of the two mixed PEGs or even a change of the pH.

### Anomalous scattering centres

The coupling of new crystallization screens with modern methods to solve the crystallographic phase problem is of special importance for high throughput crystallography. One of the easiest ways to implement this<sup>3</sup> is by soaking protein crystals in cryoprotectants containing Br<sup>-</sup> or I<sup>-</sup>.

To increase the chance of the application of this important approach, one set of **CSSI** conditions includes potassium bromide. Several well diffracting crystals have been obtained from these conditions and we are currently evaluating whether initial phase estimates can be obtained through location of anomalous scatter sites.



#### To set up a screen:

Typically the pH of 0.9 mL of the screen solution can be adjusted by the addition of 0.1 mL of 1M stock buffer. Therefore, 10 × concentrate (1M) buffer should be added to a stock solution in the proportions of 1:9.

e.g. 50 µL buffer to 450 µL stock solution

100 µL buffer to 900 µL stock solution.

Each kit contains 24 stock solutions and the following buffers (1M):

Sodium acetate – pH 4.5

Sodium acetate – pH 5.5

Sodium cacodylate – pH 6.5

Tris – pH 7.5

Tris – pH 8.5

All buffers are titrated to specified pH using glacial acetic acid.

#### Formulation Notes:

CSSI reagents are formulated using ultrapure water (>18.0 MΩ) and are sterile-filtered using 0.22 µm filters. No preservatives are added.

Final pH may vary from that specified on the datasheet. Molecular Dimensions will be happy to discuss the precise formulation of individual reagents.

Individual reagents and stock solutions for optimization are available from Molecular Dimensions.

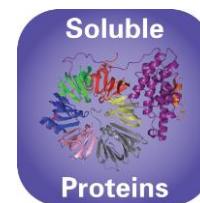
Enquiries regarding CSSI formulation, interpretation of results or optimization strategies are welcome. Please e-mail, fax or phone your query to Molecular Dimensions.

Contact and product details can be found at [www.moleculardimensions.com](http://www.moleculardimensions.com)

Manufacturer's safety data sheets are available to download from our website.

#### References

- 1) Brzozowski and Walton (2001) *J. Appl. Cryst.* **34**, 97 – 101.
- 2) Selmer *et al* (2006), *Science* **313**, 1935 – 1942.
- 3) Dauter, Z, Dauter, M & Rajashankar, K. R. (2000), *Acta Cryst.* **D56**, 232 – 237



Clear Strategy™ Screen I Conditions

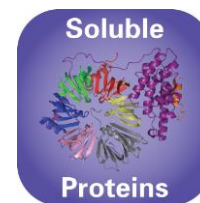
MD1-14

1 0.3 M Na acetate 25% PEG 2000 MME	2 0.2 M Li <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 25% PEG 2000 MME	3 0.2 M MgCl <sub>2</sub> 25% PEG 2000 MME	4 0.2 M KBr 25% PEG 2000 MME	5 0.2 M KSCN 25% PEG 2000 MME	6 0.8 M Na formate 25% PEG 2000 MME
7 0.3 M Na acetate 15% PEG 4000	8 0.2 M Li <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 15% PEG 4000	9 0.2 M MgCl <sub>2</sub> 15% PEG 4000	10 0.2 M KBr 15% PEG 4000	11 0.2 M KSCN 15% PEG 4000	12 0.8 M Na formate 15% PEG 4000
13 0.3 M Na acetate 10% PEG 8000+ 10% PEG 1000	14 0.2 M Li <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 10% PEG 8000+ 10% PEG 1000	15 0.2 M MgCl <sub>2</sub> 10% PEG 8000+ 10% PEG 1000	16 0.2 M KBr 10% PEG 8000+ 10% PEG 1000	17 0.2 M KSCN 10% PEG 8000+ 10% PEG 1000	18 0.8 M Na formate 10% PEG 8000+ 10% PEG 1000
19 0.3 M Na acetate 8% PEG 20,000 + 8% PEG 500 MME	20 0.2 M Li <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 8% PEG 20,000 + 8% PEG 500 MME	21 0.2 M MgCl <sub>2</sub> 8% PEG 20,000 + 8% PEG 500 MME	22 0.2 M KBr 8% PEG 20,000 + 8% PEG 500 MME	23 0.2 M KSCN 8% PEG 20,000 + 8% PEG 500 MME	24 0.8 M Na formate 8% PEG 20,000 + 8% PEG 500 MME

**Abbreviations:** Na acetate, Sodium acetate trihydrate; Li<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, Lithium sulfate; MgCl<sub>2</sub>, Magnesium chloride hexahydrate; KBr, Potassium bromide; KSCN, Potassium thiocyanate; Na formate, Sodium formate; PEG, Polyethylene glycol (concentrations quoted as % w/v); MME, Monomethyl ether;

Manufacturer's safety data sheets are available from our website or by scanning the QR code here:





### Re-Ordering details:

#### Catalogue Description

#### Catalogue Code

Clear Strategy™ Screen I	(24 x 10 mL + 10 x 10 mL buffers)	MD1-14
Clear Strategy™ Screen II	(24 x 10 mL + 10 x 10 mL buffers)	MD1-15
The Clear Strategy™ Screen Combination (CSSI + CSSII)	(48 x 10 mL kit + 20 x 10 mL buffers)	MD1-16
Clear Strategy™ Screen I HT-96	(96 x 1 mL)	MD1-31
Clear Strategy™ Screen II HT-96	(96 x 1 mL)	MD1-32

#### Eco Screens

Clear Strategy™ Screen I Eco Screen	(24 x 10 mL + 10 x 10 mL buffers)	MD1-14-ECO
Clear Strategy™ Screen II Eco Screen	(24 x 10 mL + 10 x 10 mL buffers)	MD1-15-ECO
The Clear Strategy™ Screen Combination Eco Screen (CSSI + CSSII)	(48 x 10 mL kit + 20 x 10 mL buffers)	MD1-16-ECO
Clear Strategy™ Screen I HT-96 Eco Screen	(96 x 1 mL)	MD1-31-ECO
Clear Strategy™ Screen II HT-96 Eco Screen	(96 x 1 mL)	MD1-32-ECO

#### Single Reagents

Clear Strategy™ Screen I single reagents	(100 mL)	MDSR-14 - tube number
Clear Strategy™ Screen II single reagents	(100 mL)	MDSR-15 - tube number
Clear Strategy™ Screen I HT-96 single reagents	(100 mL)	MDSR-31 - well number
Clear Strategy™ Screen II HT-96 single reagents	(100 mL)	MDSR-32 - well number

For Clear Strategy™ Screen stock reagents visit our Optimization page on our website.

Also available pre-mixed at individual pH's. Please see our website for further details.