

Chronological Timeline of the Scientific Apparatus Makers Association (SAMA) and the Laboratory Products Association (LPA)

- 1918: The corporate parent of the LPA, the Scientific Apparatus Makers' Association or "SAMA", was formed in 1918 following the birth of the USA laboratory products industry during World War I
- 1930s-1940s: As analytical instrument and nuclear instrumentation companies were created, SAMA's membership expanded.
- 1960s: An Instrument Section was formed during the 1960s following Hewlett-Packard's decision to sell their products direct. Over the years additional product sections were created.
- 1970: A process measurement & control association merged with SAMA.
- Early 1980s: SAMA was centrally organized with a 20 person Board. Administration was at the SAMA level and each of the sections had their own executive committee as well as separate market statistics and meetings.
- 1989: Under a major reorganization, SAMA was renamed as the SAMA Group of Associations. Its three product sections (Analytical Instruments Association, Measurement Control & Automation Association, and the Laboratory Products Association) were renamed as separate unincorporated associations, each with their own Board of Directors, staff, membership criteria, dues structure, meetings and programs. Also in 1989, a new group representing manufacturers of optical microscopes and surveying equipment was carved out of the LPA and set up as the Opto-Precision Instruments Association.
- 1994: MCAA leaves SAMA and separately incorporates.
- 1998: The OIA changes its name to the Optical Imaging Association (OPIA).
- 1999: The Geomatics Industry Association of America (GIAA) is carved out of the OPIA to represent the manufacturers of surveying optical equipment.
- 2003: The Analytical Life Science Systems Association (formerly AIA) leaves SAMA and separately incorporates.
- 2010: Members of the GIAA choose to affiliate with the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.
- 2011: The SAMA Board of Directors unanimously votes to rename SAMA to the Laboratory Products Association, after its largest, most widely-known subgroup. This allows the OPIA to become a subgroup of the LPA and streamlines association administrative functions.