Hot swap drive recommendations MSL

We suggest you buy a 2TB (at least) SATA SSD and put it into a hot swap cage. The advantage of this is that you can plug this hard drive into our acquisition computer and write data directly to it as if it were internal (because that is how the computer recognizes it). When you are done, you can just pop the drive out and leave; there is no data transfer. We have the same hot swap cages on our analysis workstation and several of the microscopes that generate a lot of data, so you could easily move the data from those as well, and the transfer would be as fast as you can walk between our two rooms. In your lab, our suggestion is to set up the same cage system on your desktop system, if applicable. The exact hot swap dock you get depends on what power connectors you have on your desktop computer. We’ve used either https://www.icydock.com/goods.php?id=142 or https://www.icydock.com/goods.php?id=254. The only difference between the bays is which power plug they can take from the computer’s power supply so you will have to check your computer’s power supply and see what cables you have available (Molex, SATA 15 pin or something else). If you don’t have a desktop computer, you can get a USB3 adapter, like this https://www.icydock.com/goods.php?id=188.

For the SSD we use a Samsung 860 EVO 2TB SSD (MZ-76E2T0E), but any SSD above 2TB should be fine, there is nothing essential about that model or brand. We strongly suggest you do NOT get a non-SSD hard drive.