

Photon Kinetics Announces First Automated Measurement System for Characterizing Key Properties of Multicore Optical Fibers

For Immediate Release

- *The geometry, cut-off wavelength and mode field diameter of any multicore fiber (MCF) design can now be measured with a new configuration of the industry-leading 2300 Fiber Analysis System.*
- *Fully-automated, sequential core alignment enables complete glass geometry and cut-off wavelength measurement of a 12-core MCF fiber in less than 90 seconds.*

Photon Kinetics is pleased to introduce the first in a line of automated test solutions for multicore optical fibers. The MCF 2300 Fiber Analysis System is capable of performing comprehensive characterization of multicore fibers including complete fiber geometry, plus the cut-off wavelength (spectral loss), and mode field diameter of each fiber core, all with fully automated fiber alignment, and simple preparation of fiber ends using standard tools. Virtually any MCF design with any number of cores can be characterized, including designs with or without reference markers, and MCF designs that have complex core structures (e.g., trenches).

The MCF 2300 design is consistent with other Photon Kinetics test systems that provide production measurement capability based on the length of the sample required for the measurement. Like the industry-standard 2300, the MCF 2300 is essentially a “short sample” test system capable of performing all the measurements commonly performed on fiber samples 2 meters long or shorter, such as fiber geometry, cut-off wavelength, mode field diameter, and coating geometry. In the fiber production environment, short sample measurement systems are typically complemented by systems such as the Full-Length Station (FLS). The FLS is capable of measurements such as automated bi-directional OTDR, MFD by OTDR, with options for chromatic dispersion and PMD, that are performed on multi-kilometer, full-length fiber spools. The MCF version of the FLS will be covered in a future press release.

Short sample and full-length test platforms, each with the ability to automatically perform a suite of essential measurements with minimal fiber handling revolutionized standard optical fiber production testing in the previous decade, enabling significant improvement of overall testing efficiency. It is expected that the MCF versions of these platforms will similarly transform the testing of the current new generation of multicore fiber designs.

For development purposes, the MCF 2300 short sample station retains the capability to make cut-back spectral attenuation measurements on long fiber lengths, taking advantage of the 2300's industry-leading 15 wavelengths per second scanning speed and automated alignment capability.

About Photon Kinetics

Founded in 1979, Photon Kinetics is the leading supplier of measurement solutions for the optical fiber, cable and component manufacturing industry. The company offers a comprehensive portfolio of optical fiber testing solutions ranging from fiber preform analyzers to systems for characterizing critical fiber geometry and transmission parameters. Photon Kinetics' testing solutions are complemented by a portfolio of products that reduce the overall cost of fiber measurements by facilitating the time-consuming fiber preparation and fiber coupling activities associated with fiber testing.

Photon Kinetics also supplies measurement technology to the manufacturers of network monitoring, and it provides industry-standard fiber cleaving technology to the manufacturers of high-performance fiber optic components and installation/maintenance equipment.

For more information on Photon Kinetics or any of our products and services, please visit our website at <http://www.pkinetics.com/>.

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