



**SYNC**

PARTICLE SIZE & SHAPE ANALYZER

**COMBINING LASER DIFFRACTION AND  
DYNAMIC IMAGE ANALYSIS IN ONE INSTRUMENT**



## 1974

MICROTRAC launches the first commercial laser diffraction analyzer, MICROTRAC Model 7991.

## 1987

Rollout of the high-precision gas adsorption instrument **BELSORP 28** by MicrotracBEL.

## 1998

Retsch Technology develops the **CAMSIZER** and its patented dual camera system.

## 2003

Premiere of the catalysis investigation system **BELCAT** by MicrotracBEL.

## 2007

Debut of MICROTRAC's **BLUEWAVE** laser diffractor that uses real blue lasers for highest resolution and sensitivity.

## 2011

Introduction of **CAMSIZER XT** with optional modules for wet and dry measurement.

## 2013

MicrotracBEL introduces the multi-sample **BET** surface area measurement system, **BELSORP MR6**.

## 2018

Launch of the MICROTRAC **SYNC**: laser diffraction and dynamic image analysis combined in one instrument.

## 2020

Merging of Retsch Technology, MICROTRAC & MicrotracBEL into MICROTRAC under the umbrella of Verder Scientific.

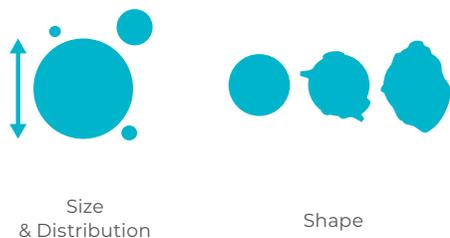
## 2023

Formulation, a recognized innovator in the field of Stability & Dispersibility analysis, is integrated into MICROTRAC.

# Three Centers of Excellence

## MICROTRAC: A SINGLE-SOURCE SOLUTION PROVIDER FOR PARTICLE CHARACTERIZATION

### PARTICLE SIZE & SHAPE FOR PARTICLE ANALYSIS



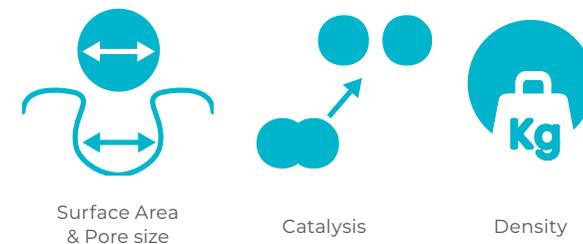
Our expertise in particle size distribution and shape analysis ensures optimal product quality control and supports advanced research efforts. At the core of our technology are **Dynamic Image Analysis (DIA) used on the Camsizer** and a combination of **Laser Diffraction (LD) and Dynamic Image Analysis used on the SYNC** systems. These two technologies cover all your needs for particle size analysis, ranging from 10 nm to 135  $\mu\text{m}$ , whether for dry or wet samples. Our unique size & shape analysis technology utilizes advanced light scattering, state-of-the-art cameras, and sophisticated computational software to deliver outstanding accuracy and repeatability.

### COLLOIDS AND FORMULATIONS CHARACTERIZATION



When working with colloids or formulations, the three main parameters to consider are **particle size, zeta potential and stability/shelf-life**. At MICROTRAC, we address all these needs with our comprehensive technology platforms: **NANOTRAC, STABINO, and TURBISCAN**. Our solutions analyze these critical factors to ensure rapid R&D and quality control for the highest product quality. Utilizing **Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS), Static Multiple Light Scattering (SMLS), and Zeta Potential (ZP)**, our systems offer unique features such as non-dilution, high accuracy, and fast measurement—enabling you to make fast decisions based on reliable data.

### GAS ADSORPTION FOR MATERIALS CHARACTERIZATION



We offer advanced solutions for measuring surface area, porosity, and catalytic properties of materials. The MICROTRAC analyzers, celebrated for their precision in **gas and vapor adsorption measurements**, determine BET surface area and pore size distribution for both porous and non-porous materials. These analyzers employ cutting-edge gas adsorption technology and are widely used in various sectors, including Research and Development, Quality Control, and Quality Assurance. These tools are trusted worldwide, reflecting the renowned craftsmanship and quality of Japanese engineering, with comprehensive support provided by our competence centers in Japan (Osaka), Germany (Haan), USA (Newtown, PA) and France (Toulouse). The **BELSORP** and **BELPORE** analyzers are essential for achieving accurate gas and vapor adsorption analysis.

## A NEW DIMENSION IN PARTICLE ANALYSIS

# SYNC

With the **SYNC** analyzer, MICROTRAC integrates its highly accurate tri-laser diffraction technology with its versatile image analysis capability to provide particle characterization practitioners with a unique measuring experience. The patented synchronous measurement technology allows users to make both a laser diffraction measurement and an image analysis measurement on a single sample, in the same sample cell at the same time:

- | One sample
- | One optical bench
- | One flow path
- | One sample cell
- | One analysis

This makes the **SYNC** ideally suited for routine QC applications. It also provides valuable information to researchers as they develop new materials and processes. The powerful software interface provides both particle size distribution information as well as a multitude of morphological parameters. The patented BLEND routine allows users to examine materials over a wide range of sizes from 0.01 microns to 4000 microns.



# SYNC

## Particle Size & Shape Analyzer

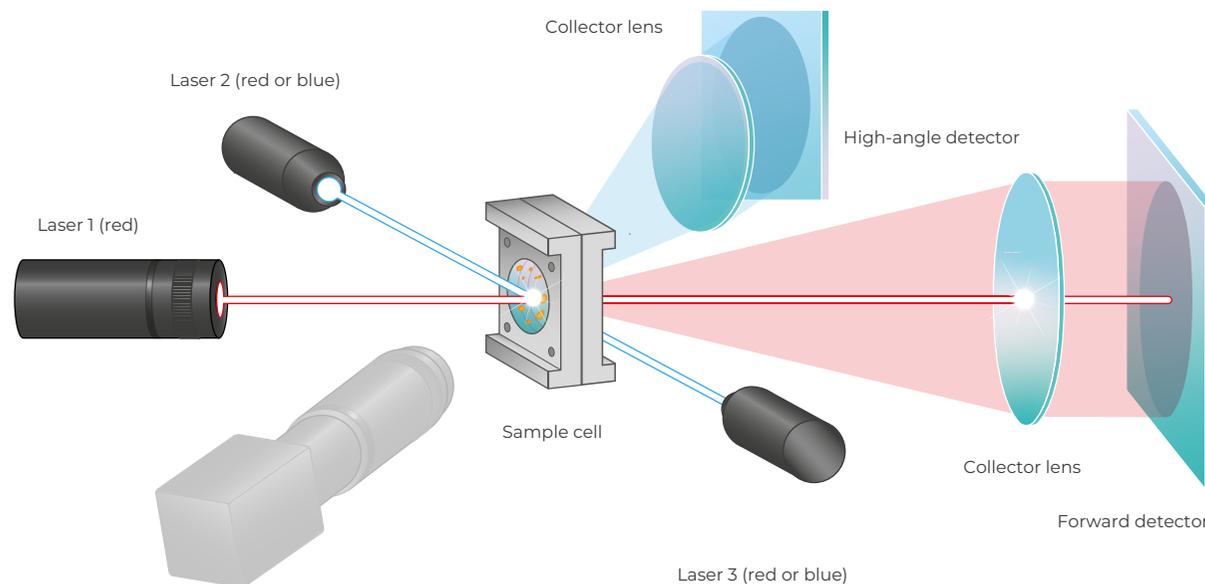
### SYNC

- ▶ Particle size and shape analysis from 0.01 to 4000 microns using laser diffraction (ISO 13320:2020) and dynamic image analysis (ISO 13322-2)
- ▶ Excellent sub-micron detection using blue laser technology. Ability to resolve narrow and multi-modal distributions in the sub-micron range
- ▶ Detection of small amounts of oversized or undersized fractions in the size distribution
- ▶ Patented synchronous measurement technology and BLEND distribution analysis. One analysis yields a particle size distribution and over 30 morphological parameters
- ▶ Fast measurement time – typically 30 seconds
- ▶ Fast and easy switch between wet and dry measurement modules. Change from wet to dry mode in less than 15 seconds
- ▶ Full IQ / OQ validation package compliant with FDA 21 CFR Part 11 guidelines



## ADVANCED LASER DIFFRACTION ANALYSIS

# PATENTED TRI-LASER SYSTEM



Particle size measurement by **Laser Diffraction (LD)** has become the most used technology in research and industry and is the de-facto standard for incoming and outgoing product quality control. During the measurement, a laser beam illuminates a well dispersed particle sample and the size distribution is calculated from the scattered light pattern. In MICROTRAC's technology, this scattered light is measured at various angles from 0 to 165 degrees. This is achieved by using two detector arrays and three lasers that illuminate the sample from different angles. The **SYNC** can be

equipped with all red lasers or a combination of red and blue lasers.

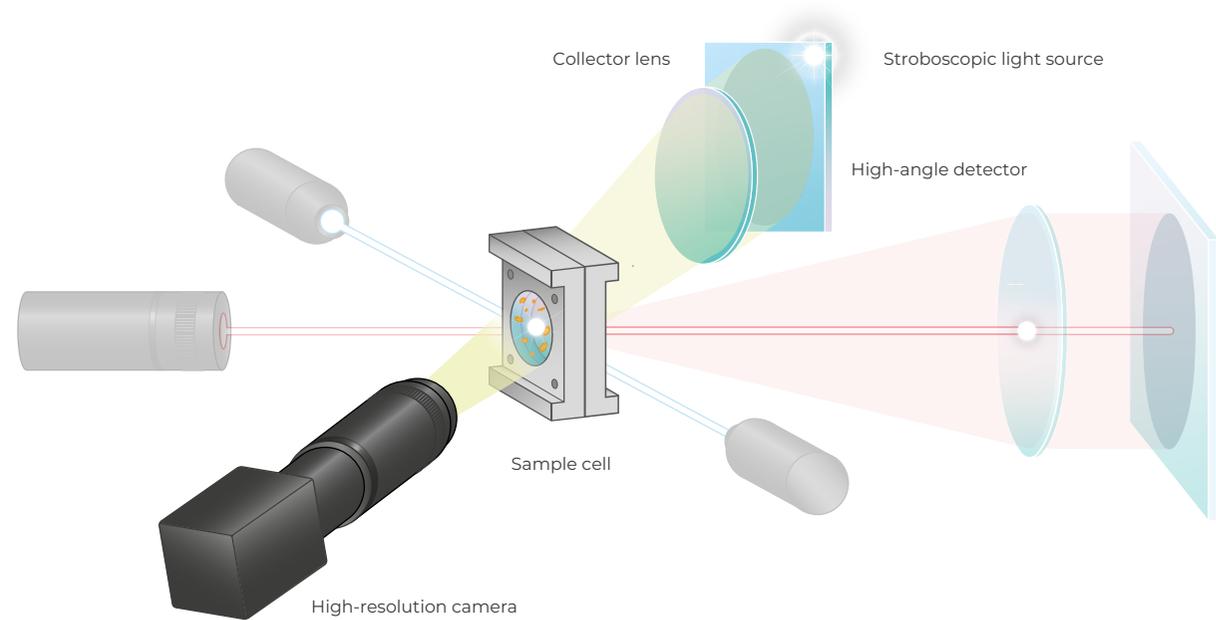
Small particles scatter light at large angles while large particles scatter light at small angles. The scattered light intensity is collected continuously throughout the measurement. The evaluation is done using MICROTRAC's innovative modified Mie scattering theory. This algorithm produces accurate particle size distributions for both spherical and non-spherical particles as well as for both transparent and absorbing materials.

### Features

- ▶ Configurations:
  - 3 red lasers
  - 1 red laser + 2 blue lasers
  - 2 red lasers
- ▶ Patented Tri-Laser design
- ▶ Fixed optics with solid state lasers diodes provide long lasting ruggedness and reliability
- ▶ Zero stabilization time
- ▶ Fourier optical system delivers the optimal pattern of light by assuring that the angle of incidence is constant

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES

# INTEGRATED DYNAMIC IMAGE ANALYSIS



The characterization of particulate systems, once dominated strictly by size analysis, is evolving. **Dynamic Image Analysis (DIA)**, which measures important parameters related to particle morphology, provides detailed information regarding the physical properties of materials. These key properties and the resulting manufactured product can change drastically with no significant differences reported in the **LD** size distribution. Image analysis can rapidly identify problems and significantly reduce troubleshooting time. Particles in a flowing stream, backlit by a high-speed

strobe light, are photographed by a high-resolution digital camera to create a video file of images for the flowing particles. More than 30 size and shape parameters are acquired for every particle. Although the measurement technology of **DIA** is straightforward, the data analysis used to identify and solve problems is very powerful. The software includes filter functions to search, display, and evaluate particles with specific properties or a combination of properties. Data can also be presented in scatter plots, in which each data point represents a single particle image.

## Features

- ▶ Integrated, synchronized Dynamic Image Analysis (ISO 13322-2)
- ▶ Powerful strobe light for excellent image quality
- ▶ 5.2 Megapixel camera
- ▶ Up to 60 frames per second
- ▶ Live view and video file
- ▶ More than 30 morphological parameters from every particle: width, length, aspect ratio, sphericity, circularity, roundness, solidity, transparency, and many more

## OUR CONCEPT OF

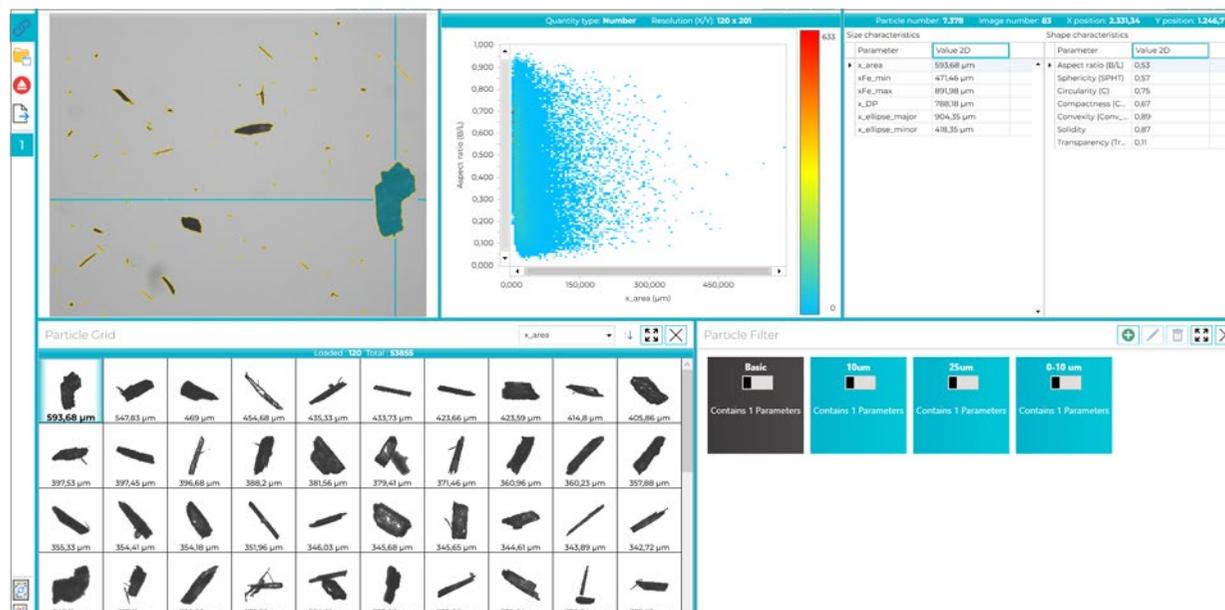
# COMBINING LASER DIFFRACTION WITH DYNAMIC IMAGE ANALYSIS

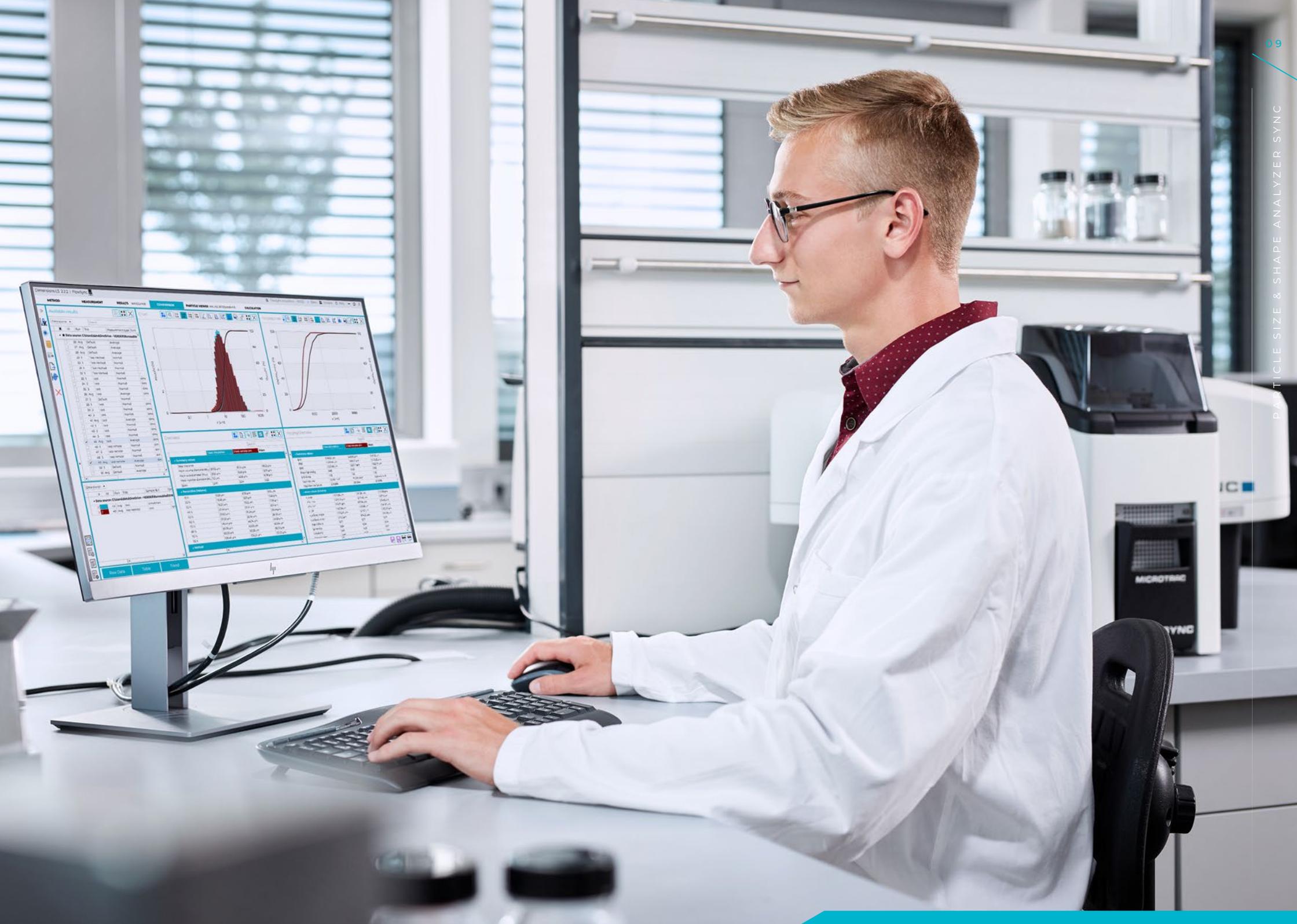
The **SYNC** particle analyzer by MICROTRAC provides traditional users of laser diffraction technology with exciting new capabilities to characterize their materials. The proven Tri-Laser technology provides accurate and repeatable laser diffraction results from light collected over 165 degrees of angular scatter. When combined with state of art camera technology capturing images of the particle stream at the same time, the **SYNC** offers not only size data but significantly more information about the shape of the materials and the quality of the dispersion.

Material is either dispersed in a carrier fluid for wet measurements in the **FLOWSYNC** or dispersed in air for dry powder measurements in the **TURBOSYNC**. As the sample stream passes through a single measurement cell in the optical module, it is interrogated by the lasers. The sample stream is simultaneously illuminated by stroboscopic LED to allow the high-speed camera to take images of the same sample. This allows users the flexibility to determine particle size distributions from an ensemble sample dispersion as well as the ability to examine single particles or groups

of particles from the hundreds of thousands of images captured by the camera. The user ultimately has the ability to look individually at a laser diffraction analysis or an image analysis, or at a combination analysis using the patented BLEND feature.

This combination analysis provides QC users the ability to qualify their data using two methodologies at the same time and provides R&D users with a powerful tool to characterize new materials.





SYNC

# MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE BY DESIGN

- | Patented Tri-Laser design  
(red & blue lasers are available)
- | Detector array covering 0 - 165 degrees
- | Stroboscopic light source and integrated camera for dynamic image analysis
- | Same bench & dispersion system for diffraction & image analysis
- | Wet and dry analysis, easy change
- | Small footprint



## CONNECTIVITY & MODULARITY

# CHANGE BETWEEN DRY & WET MODULES

No other particle analyzer allows more rapid change from wet to dry and vice versa. The modules can be removed from the analyzer with a single movement and reinstalled just as easily. All necessary cables and hoses are permanently connected to the back of the analyzer. This means that no changes to the measuring instrument or modules are required during the actual changeover. Removal of measuring cells or tedious plugging and un-plugging of mechanical and electrical connections is no longer necessary. This makes the process a real plug-and-play operation.



## FLOWSYNC

# DISPERSION MODULE FOR WET MEASUREMENTS



The **FLOWSYNC** models' automated filling, de-aerating, pre-circulating and circulating operation means that each sample is handled with a consistency that improves the repeatability of particle size distribution and imaging data. The **FLOWSYNC** has a volume of 200 ml and the **FLOWSYNC MINI** of only 40 ml.

**Consistency:** Only the **FLOWSYNC** has an in-line ultrasonic probe with variable power. It disperses agglomerated materials to ensure consistent sample dispersion during measurements.

**Versatility:** Users can program, save and recall unlimited SOP routines for fill, disperse, measure, rinse and run commands.

**Connectivity:** An integrated fill pump allows the user to connect any water or solvent source. The recirculator fills, de-aerates and dilutes automatically.

**Auto-Dispersion:** The fluid dynamics of the **FLOWSYNC / FLOWSYNC MINI** feature a built-in turbulence to ensure that all particles are moving constantly within the system, negating the need for an external stirrer.

**Resistiveness:** The **FLOWSYNC / FLOWSYNC MINI** can be operated with a wide variety of carrier fluids. In addition to water and alcohol, this includes organic solvents like hexane or toluene.

**Self-Cleaning:** The washing feature ensures that the walls of the sample vessel are thoroughly cleaned during the rinse cycle. This eliminates cross contamination from one sample to the next.

## TURBOSYNC

# DISPERSION MODULE FOR DRY MEASUREMENTS



The **TURBOSYNC** delivers a properly dispersed sample to the measuring cell, allowing for consistent and repeatable particle size analysis. A moving sample tray introduces the powder into the measurement system.

**Flexibility:** Compressed air and flow condition settings up to 50 psi (345 kPa) allow the operator to achieve optimal dispersion, even for highly agglomerated materials. Dispersion conditions can be fine-tuned for measurement of even the most fragile materials.

**Small Sample Volumes:** Sample volumes can be as small 0.1 cm<sup>3</sup>. This is ideal for applications where the sample is expensive or produced in small volumes.

**Large sample volumes:** The removable sample tray can hold larger quantities of powder. If required, multiple trays can be processed and combined into one measurement record.

**Automatic sampling:** The **MICROTRAC Dimensions LS Software** facilitates the automation of measurement cycles. Simply place the sample



in the tray and press RUN. All data is saved on the system PC or can be exported to user networks.

**Rapid Measurements:** Measurement time is usually 10 - 40 seconds, depending on the properties of the sample material.

**Repeatability:** Consistent control of aspiration settings deliver excellent sample-to-sample and instrument-to-instrument repeatability.

MICROTRAC

# APPLICATIONS

Versatility is a great strength of laser diffraction analysis. This makes the method suitable for a variety of applications in both research and industry. MICROTRAC laser diffraction analyzers are characterized by particularly convenient, easy-to-learn operation. Thanks to their robust design, the instruments are practically maintenance-free and fit for 24/7 operation. The high sample throughput and the extremely wide particle size range from nanometers to millimeters the reasons for the method's popularity in so many laboratories.

However, drawbacks of laser diffraction are poor resolution for large particles, limited sensitivity for oversize and the inability to measure particle shape. These downsides of laser diffraction, however are the strengths of image analysis. Thanks to the unique combination of both techniques, the **SYNC** provides information which is not available from laser diffraction alone and improves the overall accuracy of size measurement.

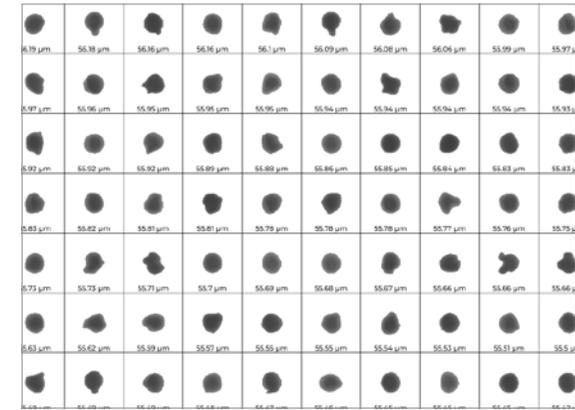
## TYPICAL FIELDS OF APPLICATION

- ▶ INDUSTRIAL MINERALS
- ▶ CERAMICS
- ▶ PHARMACEUTICALS
- ▶ CHEMICALS
- ▶ PAINTS & PIGMENTS
- ▶ METAL POWDERS
- ▶ CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS
- ▶ GLASS BEADS
- ▶ COATINGS
- ▶ 3D PRINTING
- ▶ FOODSTUFF
- ▶ COSMETICS
- ▶ BATTERY MATERIALS
- ▶ POLYMERS
- ▶ EMULSIONS

## SIZE & SHAPE ANALYSIS – ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING

Particle size distribution has long been an important characterization metric used to quantify materials. Size and shape are extremely important parameters that can drastically impact material performance in additive manufacturing. Raw powders must be broad in their size distribution, as well as round in shape. It is important to detect oversized particles to assure uniformity in the size distribution and detect deviations from spherical particles so

that the packing density and flowability can be controlled. These size and shape characteristics can lead to imperfections / defects in printed parts. With the **SYNC**, size and shape information can be obtained simultaneously on the same sample through the addition of dynamic image analysis to a laser diffraction instrument. Reliable oversize detection and detailed shape information are possible with a single measurement.

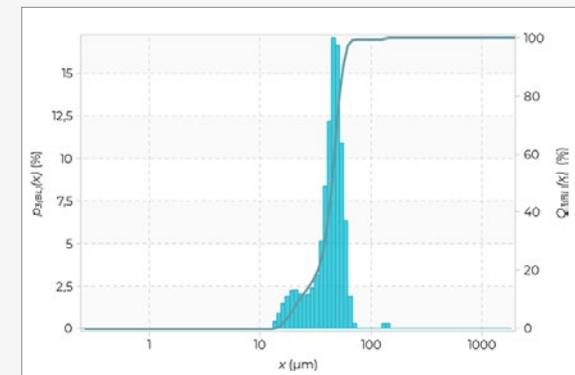


Particle images of metal powder which are used for Additive Manufacturing: Some particles have satellites, i. e. small particles fused to large ones.

## OVERSIZED PARTICLE DETECTION – ABRASIVES

Reliable oversized particle detection is often a challenge for laser diffraction. Many industries manufacture materials whose usage and effectiveness can be greatly hindered by the presence of even a few oversized particles. In particular, the performance of abrasives is tied directly to the size distribution. There are a wide variety of uses for abrasives that each require a specific size and size distribution to maximize efficacy. Some applications are in-

credibly susceptible to large particles reducing the effectiveness of the grinding media or producing an unacceptable surface. In addition to size, shape parameters such as roundness and angularity are important in predicting the performance of the material. The incorporation of dynamic image analysis as a complementary technique allows for all the advantages of laser diffraction, as well as the added benefits of reliable oversize detection.

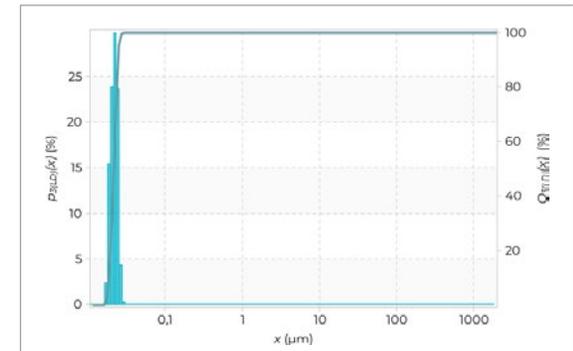


Accurate detection of oversized particles in an abrasive sample with the BLEND algorithm.

## MODIFIED MIE ANALYSIS – SUBMICRON MATERIALS

Mie scattering theory is widely used in laser diffraction. However, Mie theory was originally developed using transparent, spherical particles. Compensation must be made to adapt Mie theory to non-spherical particles. MICROTRAC's proprietary modified-Mie analysis was developed to do just that. This analysis is chosen by simply selecting irregular for the particle shape. No imaginary RI, no absorption or extinction coefficients are required. At sizes

below 30 microns, spherical particles have a strong resonance feature in the scattering pattern. Irregularly shaped particles, on the other hand, have significantly reduced intensity of this resonance. Modified Mie calculations easily and accurately account for the reduction in scattering and will not result in an over or under reporting of fines dependent on the input parameters. All MICROTRAC laser diffractors include Modified Mie calculations.

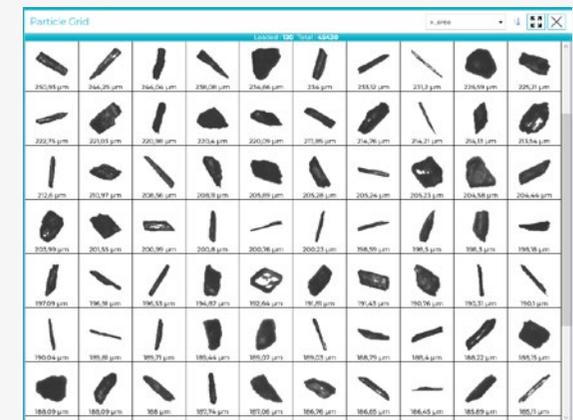


Accurate reporting of 26 nm polystyrene spheres.

## DRY POWDER MEASUREMENTS – ACTIVE PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS (API)

Dry measurements are becoming increasingly popular in particle size analysis, due in part to larger sample volumes being easily measured. Difficult samples such as soluble, fragile, or agglomerated materials can be properly dispersed and measured without being damaged using the **TURBOSYNC** module. Active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) are often soluble in many carrier fluids, are very cohesive, and need to be handled with care. Without the need for exotic organic carrier flu-

ids, dry measurements reduce cost, eliminate time consuming sample prep, and increase safety. Determining the correct particle size is important for assessing drug efficacy and bio-availability. Typically, API can contain a wide variety of shapes and sizes in a single sample portion, both of which are measurable with the **SYNC. Dimensions LS** software has password protected security and is FDA 21 CFR Part 11 compliant.



Particle images of an API measured with the TURBOSYNC.

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

# SPECIFICATIONS AT A GLANCE

Measuring range	0.01 to 4000 microns
Precision	Spherical glass beads, D50 = 642 microns, Precision as CV = 0.7% Spherical glass beads, D50 = 57 microns, Precision as CV = 1.0% Spherical latex beads, D50=0.4 microns, Precision as CV = 0.6%
Laser class	Red 780 nm, blue 405 nm – class 1 laser product per 21 CFR 1040.10 & IEC60825-1
Laser power	Red laser 0.35 to 2 mW nominal; blue lasers 10 mW nominal
Detection system	Two fixed photo-electric detectors with logarithmically spaced segments are placed at correct angles for optimal scattered light detection from 0.02° to 165° using 151 detector segments
Data handling	Data integrity ensured using FDA 21 CFR Part 11 compliant security features including password protection, electronic signatures and assignable permissions.
Typical analysis time	10 to 30 seconds
Electrical	AC input: 90 - 264 VAC, 50/60 Hz, single phase
Power consumption	Approx. 30 VA maximum, depending on options installed
Environmental	Temperature: 5°C to 40°C (41°F to 104°F) Humidity: 90% RH, non-condensing maximum Storage temperature: -10°C to 50°C (14°F to 122°F) (dry only) Pollution: Degree 2
Compliance	ISO 13320 Laser Diffraction ISO 13322 Dynamic Image Analysis
Image analysis	5.2 megapixels (2560 x 2048 px), up to 60 fps at maximum resolution
Wet operation	Volume: 200 ml nominal Flow rate: 0 to 65 ml/s maximum with water Inlet pressure: 50 psig (345 kPa) maximum
Dry operation	50 psi (345 kPa) maximum pressure 3 CFM (0.0014 m <sup>3</sup> /h) at 50 psi (345 kPa) minimum flow rate Free of dry contaminants, moisture and oil
Vacuum	Vacuum must meet or exceed 80 CFM (38 l/s)
Physical specifications	Case material: Impact resistant plastic Exterior surfaces: Finished with solvent-, stain-, and corrosion-resistant paint or plating Chemically compatible with a wide choice of organic and inorganic dispersants
Dimensions (H x W x D)	18 x 31 x 12 in (457 x 787 x 305 mm)
Weight	53 lbs (24 kg)

## ADDITIONAL SOLUTIONS

# FURTHER LASER DIFFRACTORS // ACCESSORIES FOR S3500



### S3500

MICROTRAC's **S3500** is a laser diffraction analyzer that features the proven Tri-Laser arrangement. The **S3500** uses three red lasers and can be equipped with accessories for wet analyses (SDC) or dry measurements (TURBOTRAC).

Thanks to the laser diffractor's robust design, its excellent ease of use, and a large variety of additional modules, the **S3500** has become established as a standard instrument in many industries.



### AEROTRAC II

The **AEROTRAC II** is an analyzer for particle size distribution & concentration ratio analysis for suspended particulates in air such as atomized droplets, powders, spray particles, mist etc. It is suitable for a wide range of applications including nebulizers and spray cans. Measurement modes are available to support various applications. The short measuring time intervals (0.02 ms) allow for measuring the size distribution directly after spraying and the analysis of the size distribution over time.

## Features

- ▶ **S3500** measurement range:  
20 nm – 2800 µm  
(wet & dry samples)
- ▶ **BLUEWAVE** measurement range:  
10 nm – 2800 µm  
(wet & dry samples)
- ▶ **AEROTRAC II** measurement range:  
0.5 µm – 2000 µm (different lenses  
required) for sprays, nebulas,  
aerosols, etc.
- ▶ Small footprint, robust design



#### SDC

| The Sample Delivery Controller (SDC) is designed to quickly and accurately deliver well-dispersed liquid samples.



#### USVR (Ultra Small Volume Recirculator)

| The Ultra Small Volume Recirculator (USVR) allows analyses of small liquid volumes from 35 to 50 µl.



#### MS30 AUTOSAMPLER

| The MS30 allows for the automatic measurement of up to 30 samples one after the other. The sample containers can hold up to 2.5 ml of material.



#### TURBOTRAC

| The TURBOTRAC delivers properly dispersed samples to the measuring cell, allowing for consistent and repeatable particle size analyses of dry powders.

# MICROTRAC

a VERDER company

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# VERDER

 **ENABLING  
PROGRESS**

Verder is composed of leading laboratory equipment companies active in sample preparation and analysis for quality control as well as research & development purposes.

As trusted solution partner, Verder Scientific enables thousands of companies to ensure economic, technological and environmental progress by mastering their scientific applications. Together, we make the world a healthier, safer and more sustainable place.

