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Unity Scientific, LLC Introduces New ProStar Flour On-Line Analyzer

Columbia, MD, August, 2010 – Unity Scientific, LLC announces that it has launched a new Diode Array based process monitor designed to enhance performance in monitoring quality for flour millers. Utilizing high quality Zeiss Optics, the ProStar™ system offers millers a system that can be easily implemented and maintained while receiving real time analysis and trend plotting.

“Unity Scientific has been providing the SpectraStar line of bench monochromator based systems to the Flour market for the past 8 years and has built up a strong following. The introduction of an on-line NIR analysis tool to this market is of huge benefit to the miller so that they can see real time analysis and be able to control their produce better”, comments Doug Evans, President of Unity. “The ProStar Flour analyzer has been specifically designed to optimize the analytical capability for Flour Analysis and the new TrendStar™ software provides both real time data as well as trend plotting. The ease of implantation and the robust, low maintenance design is a huge factor for this type of application”, continues Evans.

The ProStar™ Flour Analyzer is an on-line NIR spectrometer designed for easy implementation and trouble free operation. The analyzer employs reliable Diode Array technology that utilizes Carl Zeiss optics offering high speed and simultaneous full spectrum measurement capability. The speed of analysis allows for a moving sample to be analyzed (stop-flow measurement is unnecessary) and the fact that there are no moving parts makes the ProStar the ideal system for harsh environments.

Constituents that are analyzed in flour by the ProStar include moisture, protein, and ash. Accuracies in predicting these constituents have been demonstrated to be as good as can be achieved with a lab/bench NIR spectrometer. The ProStar system is comprised of the spectrometer that is mounted in a specially designed sample chamber that has been engineered to allow flour (or other freely flowing powders) to flow through without choking/plugging up. The sample chamber is inserted in a bypass line so if product ever does

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fail to flow through it, the primary flow is not affected. Although, flow through the sample chamber can be purposely stopped in order to service the chamber without affecting the process. The analyzer is especially rugged and reliable due to the fact that there are no moving parts with minimal maintenance required.

Flour or intermediate millstreams are analyzed through a sapphire window and a proprietary flushing system to ensure consistent flow across the window. Measurement is performed by collection optics mounted at an optimum position from the sample window, avoiding the inefficiencies and potential measurement variability of external fiber optics. A means of introducing reference samples and reference standards is provided via an access door in the sample chamber opposite of the sample window.

The spectrometer performs an internal reference update every 30 seconds for optimal precision. External reference updates are only required if significant service is done to the system or if the source lamp is replaced. The source lamp though is rated at 10,000 hours (more than one year) of continuous use between failures. The spectrometer is enclosed in an IP65 housing, but can be housed in a secondary enclosure in situations where external cooling is required. The sampling rate or interval is user configurable, but is normally set for a 30 second measurement cycle.

Unity Scientific is a global leader in the manufacturing and sales on Near Infrared instrumentation and Wet Chemistry analyzers. Over 2,500 NIR spectrometers have been installed worldwide along with over 6,000 wet chemistry analyzers. The corporate headquarters is located in Brookfield, CT and the NIR production facility is in Columbia, Maryland. The European headquarters is located in Rome, Italy with main offices in Paris and London. Unity's Asia Pacific operation is located in Sydney, Australia.

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