

News Release

Army buys scratch and dig inspection system

Aug 30, 2010

Chester, CT—Savvy Optics Corporation announced today that they have completed the installation of a scratch and dig measurement system at the Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. The system, a SavvyInspector™ SIF-4, has been purchased by the Product Quality Management group of the US Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) to allow software assisted scratch evaluation and certification of surface quality standards. This group at the Picatinny Arsenal is responsible for maintaining the supply of certified scratch and dig comparison standards for use in all government contracts in accordance with MIL-PRF-13830B.

Commenting on the sale, Dave Aikens, president and founder of Savvy Optics Corp, said, “This sale is extremely important. The system has been set up in the QA lab at Picatinny, on the same bench as the master limit standards, and we’ll be working closely with them to update their standard operating procedure to use the SIF-4 for calibrating the surface quality standards.” The system was installed on the 5th of August, and has since been used by Army personnel in evaluating optical surface quality standards returning from the field.

For all government contracts which involve optical components MIL-PRF-13830B, the scratch and dig standard, is used for surface quality. The scratch standard is a visibility based comparison standard which employs a set of certified artifacts provided by Picatinny Arsenal. The subjective nature of the standard has long been a source of problems in the optics community, the standard is nevertheless the de facto standard for optical surface quality for the US and much of the world. Moving towards a more objective measurement of scratches would make the evaluation of surface quality significantly easier.

“This is important on many levels,” said Allen Krisiloff, President of Triptar Lens Company, Inc, and Chairman of the Optics and Electro-Optics Standards Council (OEOSC), which oversees voluntary commercial surface quality standards for optics in the United States. “Not only is it important to the defense community, but also for the commercial optics community at large, which now has access to the same technology used by ARDEC.” The American National Standard for surface quality, ANSI OP1.002-2009, is based in part on MIL-PRF-13830B, and includes the same subjective visibility standard for scratch and dig evaluations.

Savvy Optics Corp. is an optical design and engineering company in Chester, CT. More information about the SavvyInspector™ SIF-4 can be found at www.savvyoptics.com, or by calling (860) 878-0722.