

## Setaram becomes distributor for ACL Instruments

Thermal analysis and calorimetry expert **Setaram Instrumentation SA** (Caluire, France) has entered into an exclusive distribution agreement with **ACL Instruments AG** (Kerzers, Switzerland), a company developing chemiluminescence (CL) instrumentation for the assessment of long-term oxidation processes. Setaram will provide ACL's product portfolio in France, Italy, Germany, the Benelux countries, the UK, Ireland and Switzerland. "While we haven't ruled out Setaram as a partner for markets such as China and the US, we are still open for potential other partners," Fabian Käser, the founder of ACL, told *Instrument News*.

The sensitivity of ACL's method allows samples as small as 0.1 mg to yield information about oxidation reactions, thermal decay, stability, efficiency assessment of stabilizers, determination of activation parameters and the prognosis of life expectancy. The technology, originally developed at the University of Applied Science in Bern, Switzerland, is based "around a dramatically shortened optical path and novel optical elements, which enable CL to reach a new level of sensitivity", Käser explained. This sensitivity makes possible the monitoring of oxidation

reactions at moderate temperatures, reducing the probability of secondary phase transitions, which can distort results in conventional calorimetric methods. Added to the basic CL instrument are applications such as humidifier, spectrometer and photo-oxidation modules that enables customers to predict oxidative effects on a wide ranges of products, from technical goods and polymers to food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, and to test the effectiveness of anti-oxidative agents.

ACL was founded only last year as a spin-out from Bern University of Applied Sciences with financial support from **Venture Kick** (St Gallen, Switzerland) and the **Foundation for Technological Innovation** (Bern, Switzerland), two organisations of private investors aiding the commercialisation of basic research concepts.

In related news, Setaram has entered into a partnership with **HEL Ltd** (Borehamwood, England), a provider of process screening, development and optimisation, and reactive hazards assessment instrumentation and services. Under the terms of this agreement, Setaram is distributing HEL's range of adiabatic calorimeters globally. ■

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