



Drawing On Our Own Expertise

Our Photonics and Life Sciences Division is barely a year old, but already it has a success story to its credit. The X-Cite™ 120 Fluorescence Illumination System, which offers three times the average lamp life than conventional lighting systems, not only gained market acceptance among microscope manufacturers in 2004, but was also upgraded for automated applications. An RS-232 connection and a software interface enable end-users to control the X-Cite 120's iris, lamp, shutter and timer via a personal computer. Industry leaders like Leica, Nikon Instruments, Olympus and Zeiss MicroImaging have wholeheartedly embraced this microscope accessory, reselling it to customers through their own sales channels.

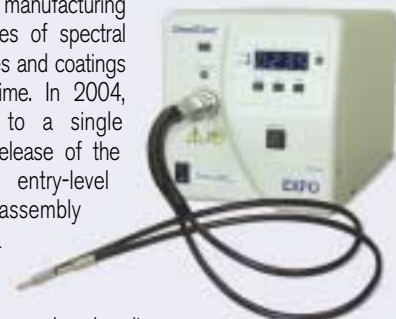
The early success of the X-Cite 120 illustrates the thinking behind the creation of the Photonics and Life Sciences Division. This division, on the strength of its own sales, R&D, manufacturing and management teams, leverages core technologies into high-precision assembly and life sciences markets. Our fluorescence microscopy solution, for example, is based on patented smart-lamp technology used for optical component manufacturing applications. Other selected solutions include light-based spot curing and nanotechnology. To improve efficiency, we are in the process of consolidating all of these activities at one location in Toronto.



X-Cite 120 fluorescence microscopy solution

Building On Our Light-Based Curing Expertise

We have drawn on our expertise in light-based curing to offer optimized solutions for the microelectronic, semiconductor and medical-device manufacturing industries. Our Novacure® and Acticure® spot-curing systems, which were originally designed for optical component manufacturing applications, deliver precise doses of spectral light onto photosensitive adhesives and coatings to significantly reduce curing time. In 2004, we continued our migration to a single light-system platform with the release of the OmniCure™ Series 1000, an entry-level system for manual-precision assembly environments. We also released a cure-ring radiometer, which measures light output at the cure site, to ensure a repeatable process when bonding devices that require a uniform 360-degree exposure. Following the year-end, we launched the OmniCure™ Series 2000 for automated manufacturing applications. These recent innovations illustrate why EXFO is widely recognized as the authority on light-based curing and process control.



OmniCure spot-curing platform

Taking Advantage of Our Expertise in Nanotechnology

We have taken advantage of our expertise in nanometer-scale positioning to offer piezoelectric-based positioning systems for life science research. The stability of piezoelectric (PZT) technology provides extremely smooth and predictable instrument motion used for applications like patch-clamp experimentation and micromanipulation. In 2004, we introduced the PCS-6000 Micromanipulator, which features PZT smoothness plus motorized long travel for electrophysiology research. In addition, we offered new motor/memory capabilities on our Gibraltar® platform to enable the prompt return of fixed-stage, upright microscopes to their original position with a single touch of a button. These latest developments stem from renewed customer intimacy in this market.



PCS-6000 Micromanipulator