

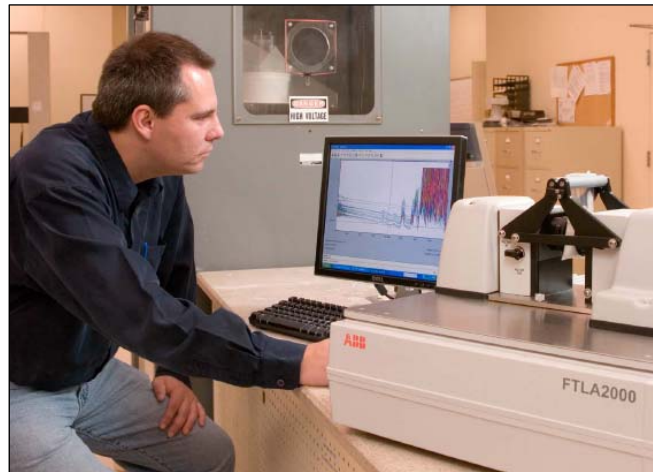
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NIR Spectrometer Acquired for Precise Materials Testing

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA (USA) – IDI Composites International, the premier global formulator and manufacturer of thermoset molding compounds, recently installed a Fourier Transform Near Infrared (FT-NIR) spectrometer for testing raw materials, pastes, and special additives used in Sheet Molding Compounds (SMC) and Bulk Molding Compounds (BMC) sold by the company. IDI is one of a few companies in the industry who owns this type of spectrometer, enabling them to control material properties that directly affect the quality of their products.



The FT-NIR spectrometer precisely determines a multitude of chemical and physical attributes that are critical to the production of quality SMC and BMC, including moisture content, monomer content, mixing performance, and general composition. In particular, the spectrometer provides crucial information on the moisture content in precursors to the production of SMC and BMC and can easily measure the concentration of polymers in solution. This is especially important for measuring the monomer content in Low

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Profile Additives (LPAs), which help control shrink properties and improve surface quality of molded parts.

FT-NIR spectroscopy testing is highly preferred over traditional methods, such as oven testing and titration, and can measure samples without using dangerous and costly chemicals that are sometimes associated with test laboratories. Traditional test methods are also slow, labor intensive, and subject to operator error. Plus, they sometimes have detrimental effects on materials being tested. The FT-NIR Spectrometer is non-invasive, allowing materials to be quickly and conveniently tested at any stage of processing.

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About IDI Composites International: IDI Composites International is the premier global formulator and manufacturer of thermoset molding compounds for custom molders and OEMs. The company provides customized polyester/vinylester-based bulk molding compounds (BMC) and sheet molding compounds (SMC) for the world's most demanding markets, including automotive, electrical, appliance, food service, and energy.

Headquartered in a 200,000 square foot facility in Noblesville, IN (USA), IDI has a strong presence in the international thermoset composites market. To support a growing customer base world-wide, the company operates multiple wholly-owned manufacturing facilities in Europe, Asia, and The Americas.