

Surface Characterisation

The 3D characterisation of surfaces is very important to understand how materials perform under operating conditions. This approach is quickly replacing the standard roughness measurements (Ra) which provides information in a 2D single line format but provides little information about real surface properties.

The Alicona InfiniteFocus generation 4 is a 3D surface characterisation device that allows the collection of optical 3D datasets from the surface of a material allowing a range of measurement tasks. This includes Ra but unlike 2D tactile systems surface data can be obtained to characterize the surface. This can include assessment of the surfaces' ability to retain lubricants, measurement and assessment of wear, measurement of hard coatings, volume of pits and lumps, and area measurement. All of these parameters are important to the understanding of material performance. Uses for this instrument, and its characterisation results, are very varied and include, but are not restricted to, the evaluation of metals, ceramics, dental material and implants, failure analysis (all materials), forensics, fractures, life sciences, medical devices, plastics, polymers, printing, paper and semiconductors.

Contact: Alicona UK Ltd
www.alicon.com



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