



LABORATORIO ELETTROFISICO

New Rapid Magnetics Testing Lab Opens for Silicon Valley

Walk In and Walk Out with Confidential Results. Laboratorio Elettrofisico's Innovative Lab Offers Advanced Capabilities and Same-Day Testing.

GILROY, CALIFORNIA – (Nov 27, 2015) Laboratorio Elettrofisico (LE) today announced its new rapid magnetics testing lab built in partnership with Island Ceramic Grinding, Inc. in Gilroy, California. The lab provides the ability to walk in with a hard or soft material sample, and walk out with confidential results from an ISO 9001 certified facility.

The Northern California lab's straightforward approach to rapid magnetic material sampling offers ease of use combined with unprecedented access to advanced capabilities, including AC testing of soft magnetic materials at frequencies up to 200 kHz and magnetizing capabilities with fields up to 6.3 Tesla.

"The new lab can machine, magnetize, and test most magnetic materials. It's very unique to have all of that in one place," says Brian R. Palakow, VP, Laboratorio Elettrofisico.

The lab's capabilities include: characterizing the magnetic properties of hard, semi-hard, and soft magnetic materials as well as cemented carbides; obtaining coercivity and magnetic saturation for cemented carbides and semi-hard materials; measuring of full hysteresis loops and normal magnetization curves for soft materials; and verification of the anisotropy axis and magnetic moment with 3-axis Helmholtz coils. Hard magnetic materials can be measured from room temperature up to 220 °C.

In planning the project, Palakow's group set out to break the mold for magnetics testing. Up until now, access to highly specialized testing and measuring equipment for magnetic materials has been extremely limited. Seeing the test being run in person and being able to personally ensure the confidential handling of a sample was even more unlikely, let alone to walk out with same-day results.

"From the start, our vision was to provide an entirely new kind of rapid magnetic testing resource in Silicon Valley for our clients in consumer electronics, aerospace, hybrid motors, and sensors," says Palakow. "And, we knew we wanted to work with Bernn Hitch of Island Ceramic Grinding. He's been a user of LE equipment for more than a decade, and he has the rare combination of expertise to prepare samples and make highly specialized magnetic measurements."

Bernn Hitch is president of Island Ceramic Grinding, Inc. (ICG) and president of the new lab in Gilroy. Hitch brings more than two decades of magnetics industry experience as head of ICG, which specializes in grinding ferrites, garnets, and magnetic materials. The company has a worldwide client base of manufacturers in microwave technology, telecommunications, appliances, motor and sensor equipment, and automotive. ICG also serves leading university research and development laboratories.

"Often people don't realize testing will require grinding for the sample to fit in the machine," says Hitch. "In order to bring this new lab concept to life, we needed to provide on-the-spot machining. Otherwise, the sample has to be sent out, which can take days, or even weeks."

It's not unusual for testing of magnetic materials to become a drawn-out process that includes sending away a highly guarded company secret. "We have clients walk in with samples and walk out with their results," says Hitch. "There aren't many ways to get access to this kind of equipment, see it work close up, and watch everything that happens to your sample."

The lab's California location is key to providing an entirely new level of accessibility to magnetics testing. "Our new lab allows us to be where our clients are," say Dario Zanon, CEO, Laboratorio Elettrofisico. "Our relationships in Silicon Valley are already well established, and the California location marks an important expansion in our global presence." LE's new rapid magnetics testing lab in California joins another United States office in Michigan, the company's headquarters in Italy, and offices in China and India.

About Laboratorio Elettrofisico

Laboratorio Elettrofisico is a leading global designer and manufacturer of magnetizing and magnetic measuring equipment for the automotive, medical, electronics, defense, aerospace, renewable energy, and manufacturing industries. The company was founded in 1959 and is headquartered in Milan, Italy. LE has laboratories, testing facilities, and service centers in the United States, India, and China.

About Island Ceramic Grinding, Inc.

Island Ceramic Grinding, Inc. has been one of the world's leading suppliers of microwave and magnetic materials for more than three decades. Based in Gilroy, California, the company specializes in grinding ferrites, garnets, and magnetic materials for manufacturers, as well as university research and development laboratories.

Schedule your test today. Ask an LE expert for assistance.

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