

# A dual-gas cryostat and an imaging ellipsometer

EP<sup>3</sup>  
**Nanofilm Tehnologie** [www.nanofilm.de](http://www.nanofilm.de)

**Imaging ellipsometer**

Nanofilm's latest imaging ellipsometry platform, the EP<sup>3</sup>, overcomes a major limitation of conventional ellipsometers by enabling highly precise thin-layer thickness measurements (resolution  $\approx 0.01$  nm) while simultaneously providing real-time ellipsometric contrast micrographs and video at a spatial resolution on a par with optical microscopes (maximum  $< 1 \mu\text{m}$ ). Hence, the smallest heterogeneities or structures can be identified and imaged allowing relative and absolute thickness measurements to be constrained to a small region of interest rather than averaged over a large area, as is common with most ellipsometers.

The extensive and easy-to-use graphical software interface provides complete PC-based control of the instrument

along with rapid three-dimensional mapping of layer thickness, refractive index and other optical properties. Additionally, customized routines can be developed using the scripting language EP<sup>3</sup>-view to add functionality and tailor the software to the user's unique application.

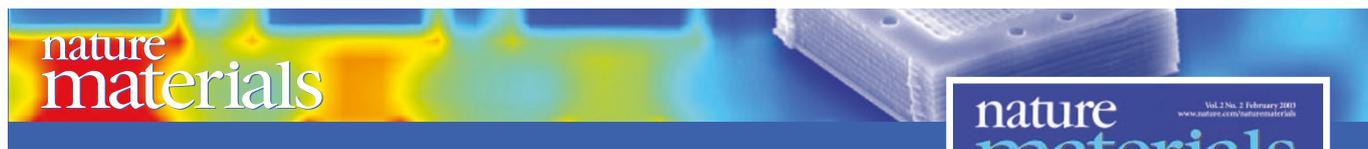
The EP<sup>3</sup> is available in single or multi-wavelength configurations or as an imaging spectroscopic system. Additionally, a series of complementary options are available, including flow chambers for measurements in liquid environment, film balances and troughs for Langmuir-Blodgett applications, active vibration isolation systems and others. Applications for this platform include thin homogeneous or structured layers, polymers, organic layers, biochips and corrosion.

N-HELIX  
**Oxford Cryosystems**

[www.oxfordcryosystems.co.uk](http://www.oxfordcryosystems.co.uk)

**Cryostat without liquid cryogens**

Oxford Cryosystems announce their new open-flow helium/nitrogen cryostat, the N-Helix, which does not use liquid cryogens. A development of their Helix system designed for single-crystal X-ray diffraction, the new model has the ability to use both helium and nitrogen gas. N-Helix is totally programmable, and has the ability to reach and maintain any specific temperature within the range 28 to 300 K, with a stability of greater than 0.3 K. The sample temperature is not affected by switching the supply of helium or nitrogen gas, thus enabling long-term experiments to be performed.

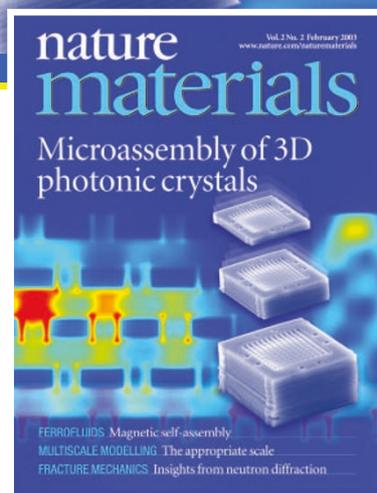


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*These notes are compiled in the Nature Materials office from information provided by the manufacturers.*