## **NEW ON THE MARKET**

# Ultra-pure films and software

Mini-electron-beam evaporators and FDA-compliant X-ray microanalysis software

#### EGN1, EGN4, EGC04, H-PEB4 Oxford Applied Research

#### Mini-electron-beam evaporators

A series of four minielectron-beam evaporators, the EGN1, EGN4, EGC04 and H-PEB4 are offered from Oxford Applied Research. These have the ability to deposit ultra-pure films of refractory materials, from power sources in the range 150-800 W. Fully controllable deposition rates of between  $< 0.1 \text{ Å min}^{-1}$  and > 300 Å min<sup>-1</sup> are possible for many materials. Coevaporation of up to four materials is also possible with models EGC04 and H-PEB4, with independent regulation of the individual deposition rates from a

single power supply. The evaporant-fitted either as a rod or contained within crucibles — is held at high voltage, which acts to draw electric current from a nearby hot filament, the impact of which causes evaporation. During the evaporation a small fraction of the vapour is ionized, which is harnessed to determine the deposition rate without the need for film thickness monitors during evaporation. Flux monitoring plates measure the ion current in the beam and extract most of the ions, leaving

the beam predominantly neutral. Shutters are fitted as standard, and in EGC04 and H-PEB4 they allow several combinations of pockets to be selectively opened. Crucibles are suitable for use with insulators, materials that require evaporation

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temperature much higher than the melting point, or which have high thermal conductivity.

### EDAX

#### X-ray microanalysis software

EDAX introduce E-SIG, which is claimed to be the first X-ray microanalysis software package that provides electronic signatures as required by 21 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) part 11, and is able to satisfy US Food and Drugs Administration security and audit trail requirements. Spectra collected from the GENESIS software can be electronically archived along with user information and a date and time stamp. The three main features that ensure

data integrity are that the primary data cannot be altered; any changes to the data are tagged and tracked; and the levels of data processing are restricted on the basis of the relevant set permissions. For example, changes to parameters to improve peak identification are saved, including the audit name and sequence number, to maintain audit trails. If data is printed out, that data is automatically saved with a new sequence number, if the parameters are different from those last saved.

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

## nature materials

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