



# Stevanato Group

## ENGINEERING SYSTEMS

Tools to monitor  
consistency:  
visual inspection and  
inspection technology.  
Global, regional and  
national expectations

Gaetano Baccinelli |  
Optrel inspection – A  
Stevanato Group Brand

# Stevanato Group Brand Structure



## PHARMACEUTICAL SYSTEMS

## ENGINEERING SYSTEMS

## SERVICES



GLASS  
PRIMARY  
PACKAGING



SPECIALTY  
PLASTICS  
& DELIVERY  
DEVICES



GLASS  
TECHNOLOGY,  
STERILE  
PACKAGING  
& INDUSTRIAL  
AUTOMATION



PACKAGING,  
ASSEMBLING &  
SERIALIZATION



PHARMA  
INSPECTION  
SYSTEMS



ANALYTICAL  
SOLUTIONS

# Different options for inspecting

Technology	Handling	Inspection
Manual	Operator	Operator
Semi-Automatic	Automated	Operator
Fully Automatic	Automated	Automated

# Pro's Con's of each Technology

## MANUAL



High Variability due to  
Human Factor

## SEMI-AUTOMATIC



Small Batches  
Low False Reject  
Ideal for Expensive Drugs  
Ideal for Lyo/Powder  
Variability due to  
Human Factor

## FULLY AUTOMATIC



Large Industrial Batches  
100% Cosmetic inspection  
False Rejects to keep in  
consideration (Lyo/Powder)

# Inspection Machines Portfolio

## VERY HIGH SPEED

Continuous Motion  
Up to 660 pcs/min



CVT

- Optical tracking cameras for high accuracy and very high speed

## HIGH SPEED

Continuous Motion  
Up to 400 pcs/min



EXACTA Easy  
EXACTA Plus  
LKD

- Tracking cameras for high accuracy in detection
- Fixed cameras for high productivity and low maintenance
- Leak test machine

## MEDIUM SPEED

Intermittent Motion  
Up to 200 pcs/min



MCA Series  
FD

- Very flexible machines for inspection of a wide range of products
- Dedicated machine for Freeze-Dried products

## SEMI-AUTOMATIC

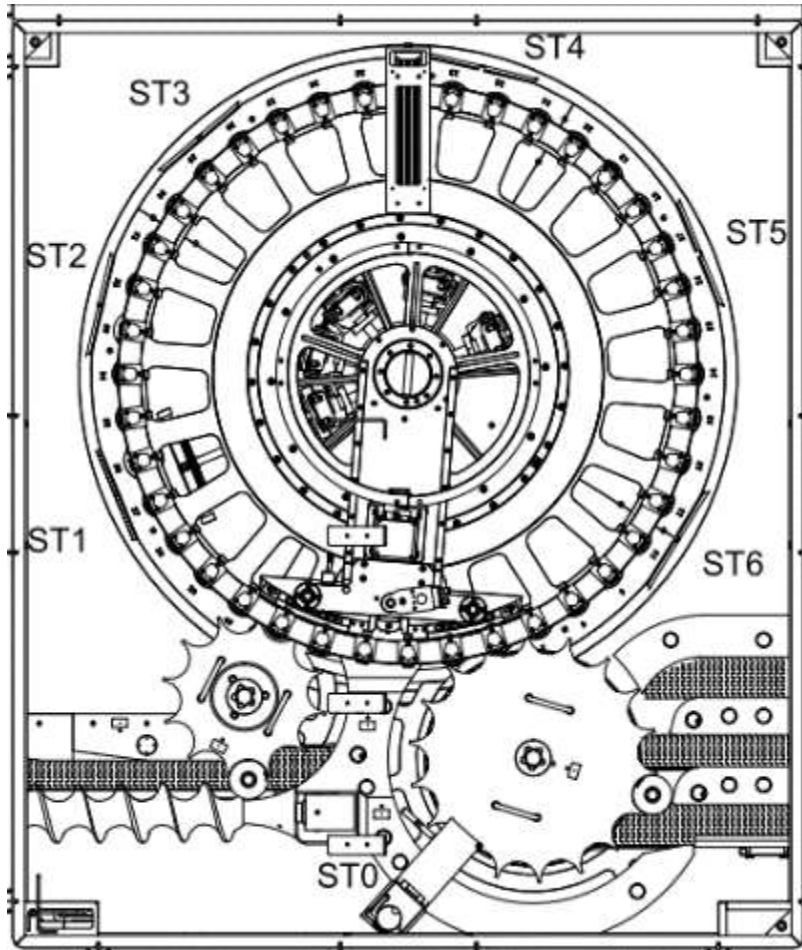
Up to 100 pcs/min



PWL Series

- Ideal for small volume inspection or critical products

# Controls layout for a typical automatic inspection machine



	Type	Position
ST0	Closure control	Exit
ST1	Crimping control	Turret
ST2	Body control lateral	Turret
ST3	Particle and fill level	Turret
ST4	Particle inspection	Turret
ST5	Particle inspection	Turret
ST6	Floating particles	Turret
ST7	Bottom inspection	Outfeed

## Example of defects



Particulate Matter

Closure Integrity

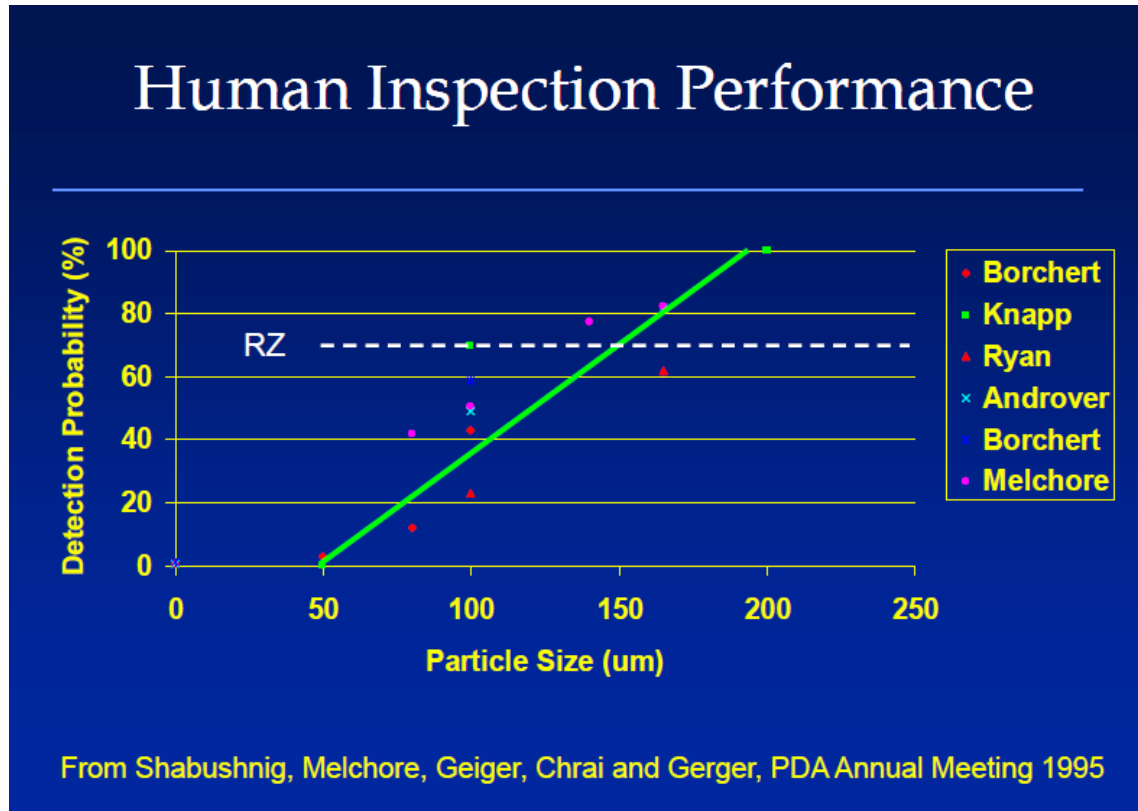
Cosmetic Defects

# Standard transparent solutions: Particles inspection

# Most common foreign matter found in drug production

Substance	%	Nature	Source
Cellulose	9.9	fibers	clothes, towels, wipers, autoclave paper
Longchain hydrocarbon	3.0	rubber, PE	stopper, bottles
Polyester	4.4	fibers, particles	Cleanroom clothes and filters
Talcum	0.2	product	API
Silicon oil	3.3	particles, drop	Sealing, siliconisation
Protein (Keratin)	3.2	mostly flakes	Human skin dust, hair
Polystyrene	1.9		
Polypropylene	3.1		
Carbon	4.3		
Titandioxide	0.7		
Organic	4.3		
Fluorescence	8.8		

# Inspection performance limit



100% inspection (human or machine) is needed to detect small quantities of randomly sourced foreign material

- 100% inspection (man or machine) is not 100% effective.
- Zero is not a practical limit.

# Different contaminants have different response to light

A reliable detection has to combine the advantages of the various lighting methods in order to detect the largest range of contaminants



## Absorbing

- Carbonization
- Impurities
- Rubber fragments



## Reflecting

- Glass fragments
- Crystallization
- Silicone oil
- Delamination



## Polarizing

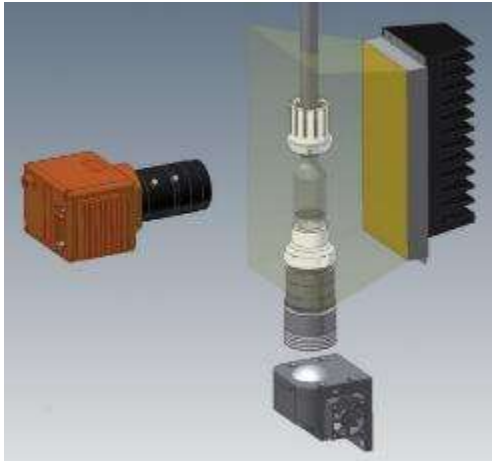
- Fibers
- Impurities
- Product aggregation



## Multi-scatter

- Fibers
- Impurities
- Glass fragments

# Particle inspection: particle in white background



## Possible Source

- Product carbonization for improper flame sealing of ampoules tip
- Impurities from API/WFI
- Rubber particles

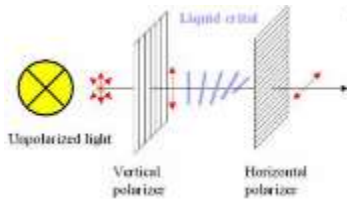
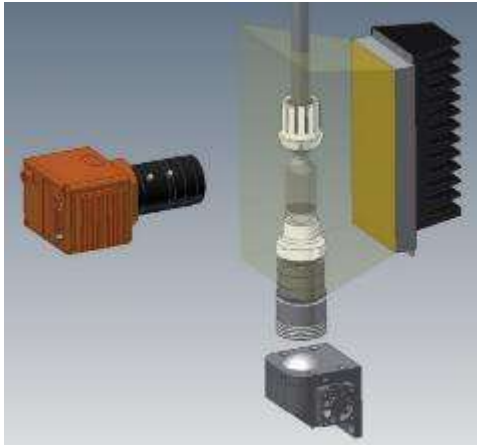
# Particle Inspection: Particle in Black Background



## Reflecting Particles

- Glass fragments, filling needle not centered
- Product crystallization
- Silicone oil from stopper/plunger
- Glass Delamination

# Particle Inspection: Fibers in Polarized Light



## Inspection method

- Polarized light illumination

## Possible Source

- Fibers from filter/wipper
- Impurities from API/WFI
- Fibers from clothing

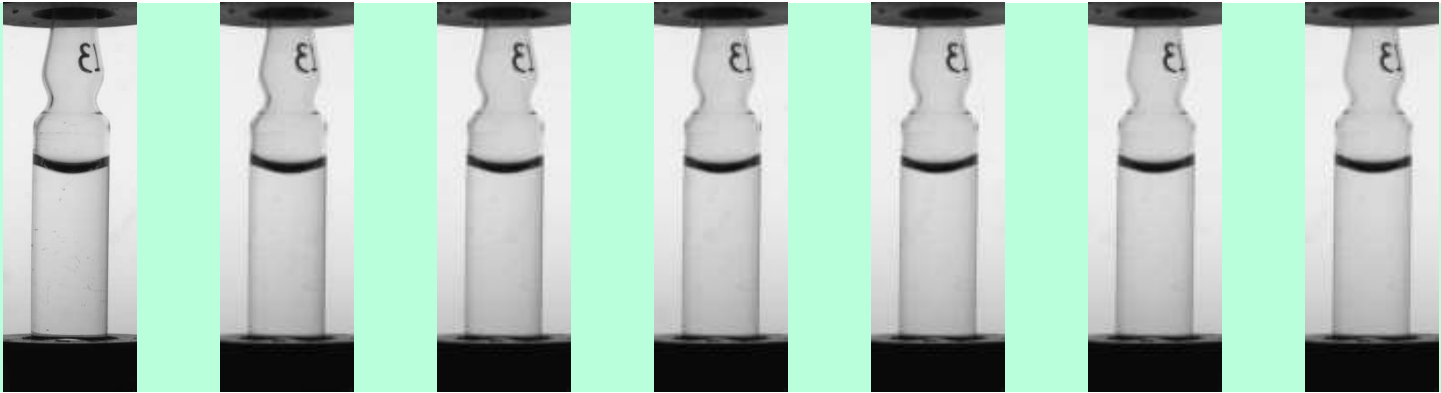
## How to combine all these setup in a single camera station?



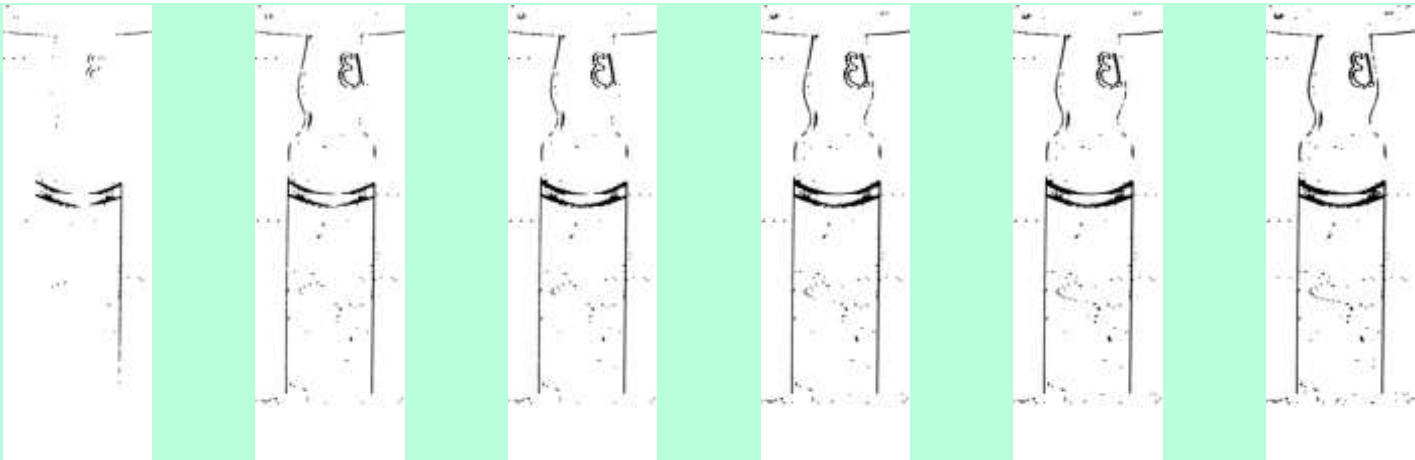
High resolution high speed cameras acquire from **40 to 120 images**, half with one illumination setup half with another to detect all kind of contaminants

# Standard Interframe analysis

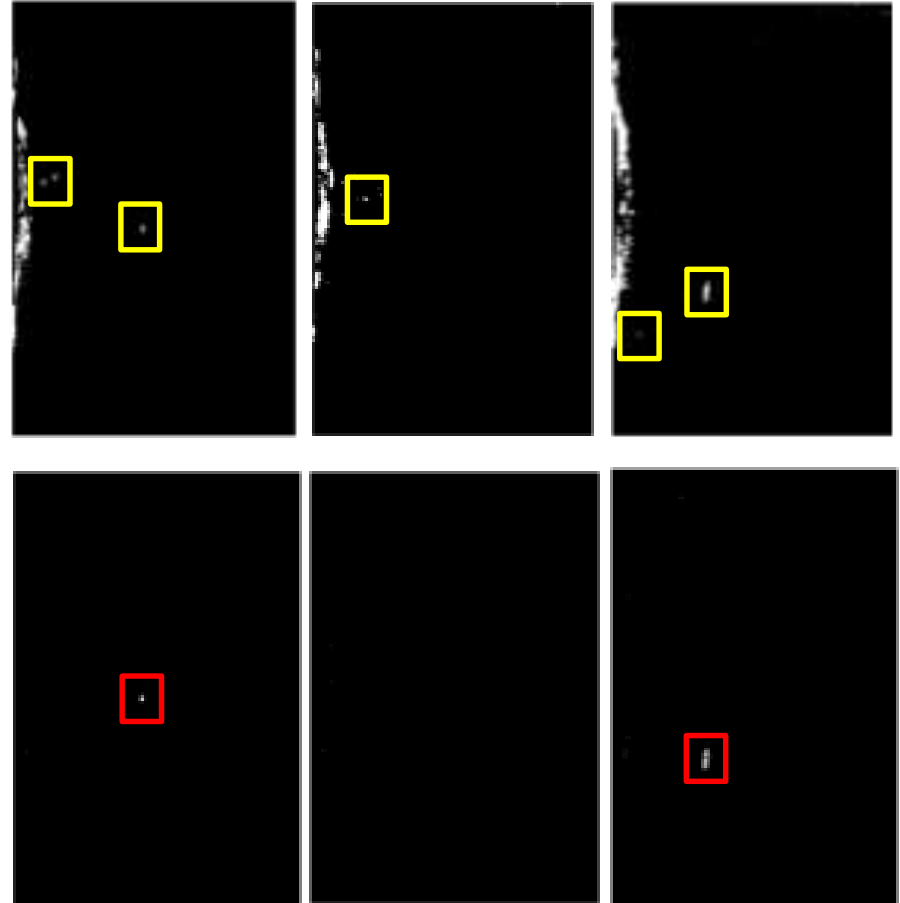
Acquisition of a sequence of 12 up to 120 images from the container under inspection



Compute the sequence of differential images one by one



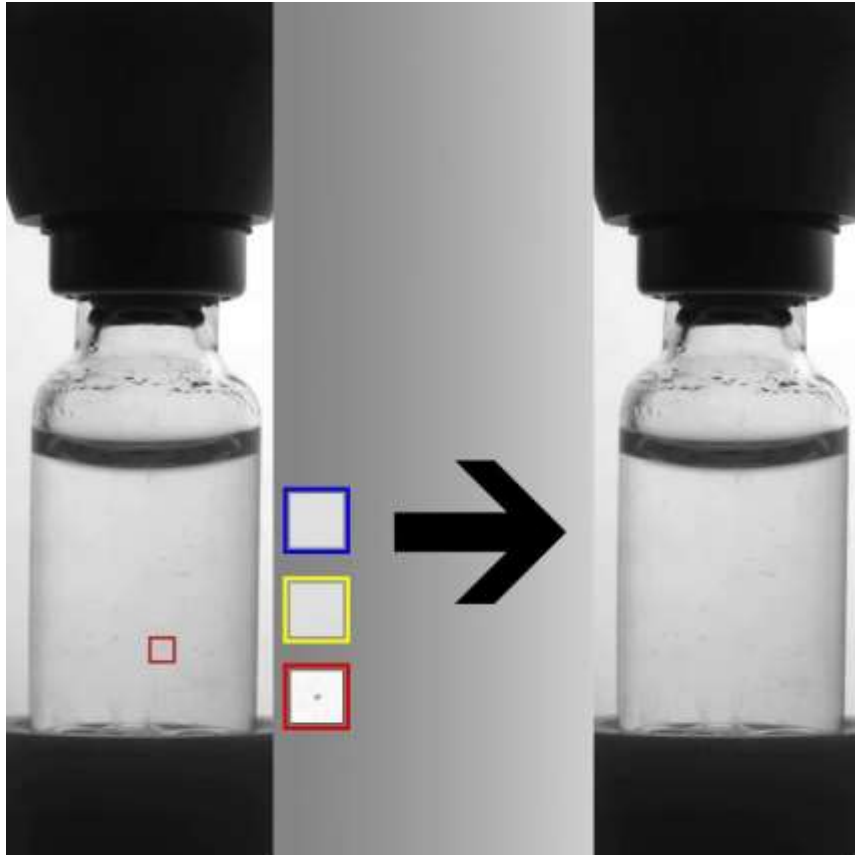
# Background Subtraction



Compute the “don’t care” Mask  
of the images using a Background  
Estimator on the sequence

The reflexes are removed but sometimes  
canceling particles

# Optrel: New concept, dynamic analysis

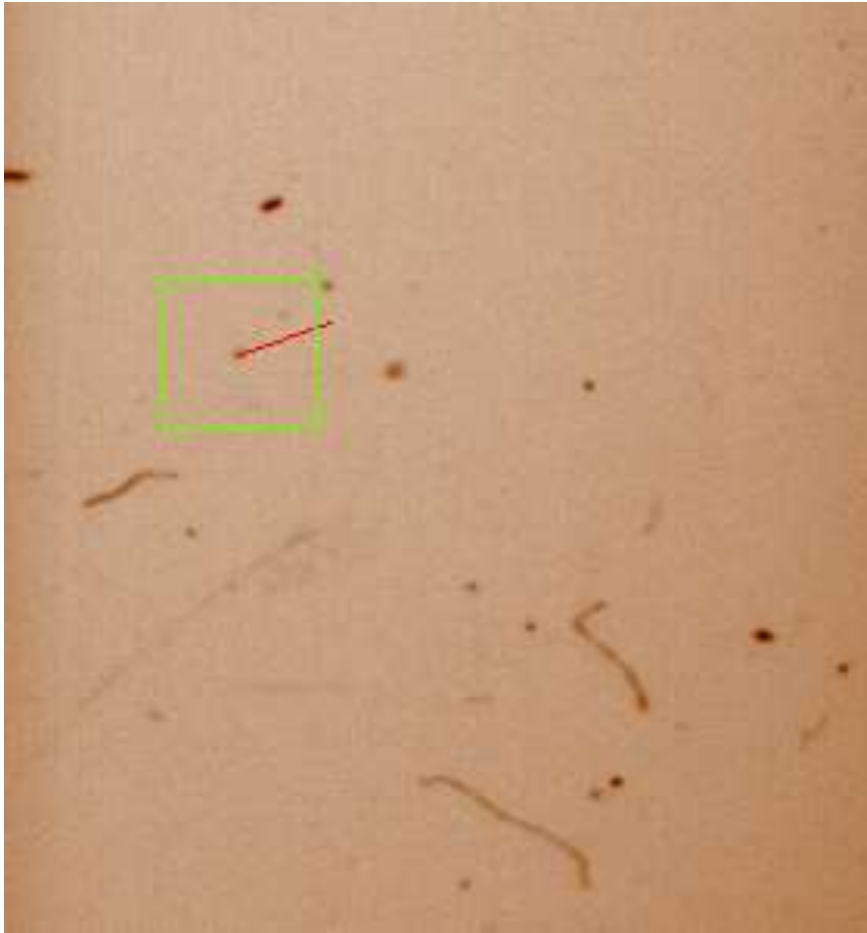


- Particle trajectory reconstruction using the Kalman filter
- Trajectory post analysis filtering
- Analysis of the meniscus
- Analysis of the container bottom

# Particle Inspection: Dynamic vs Interframe Analysis



# Particle Inspection: Trajectory details

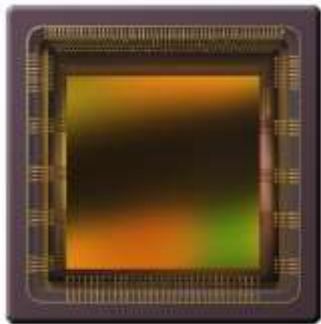


- Diff Threshold = 12
- Area Threshold = 5
- Particle size < 50 $\mu$ m
- Trajectory life= 16 frames
- Field of View = 10 ml

# Optrel dynamic analysis, trajectory algorithm

A smart way to reach high efficiency and reduce false rejection in automatic inspection

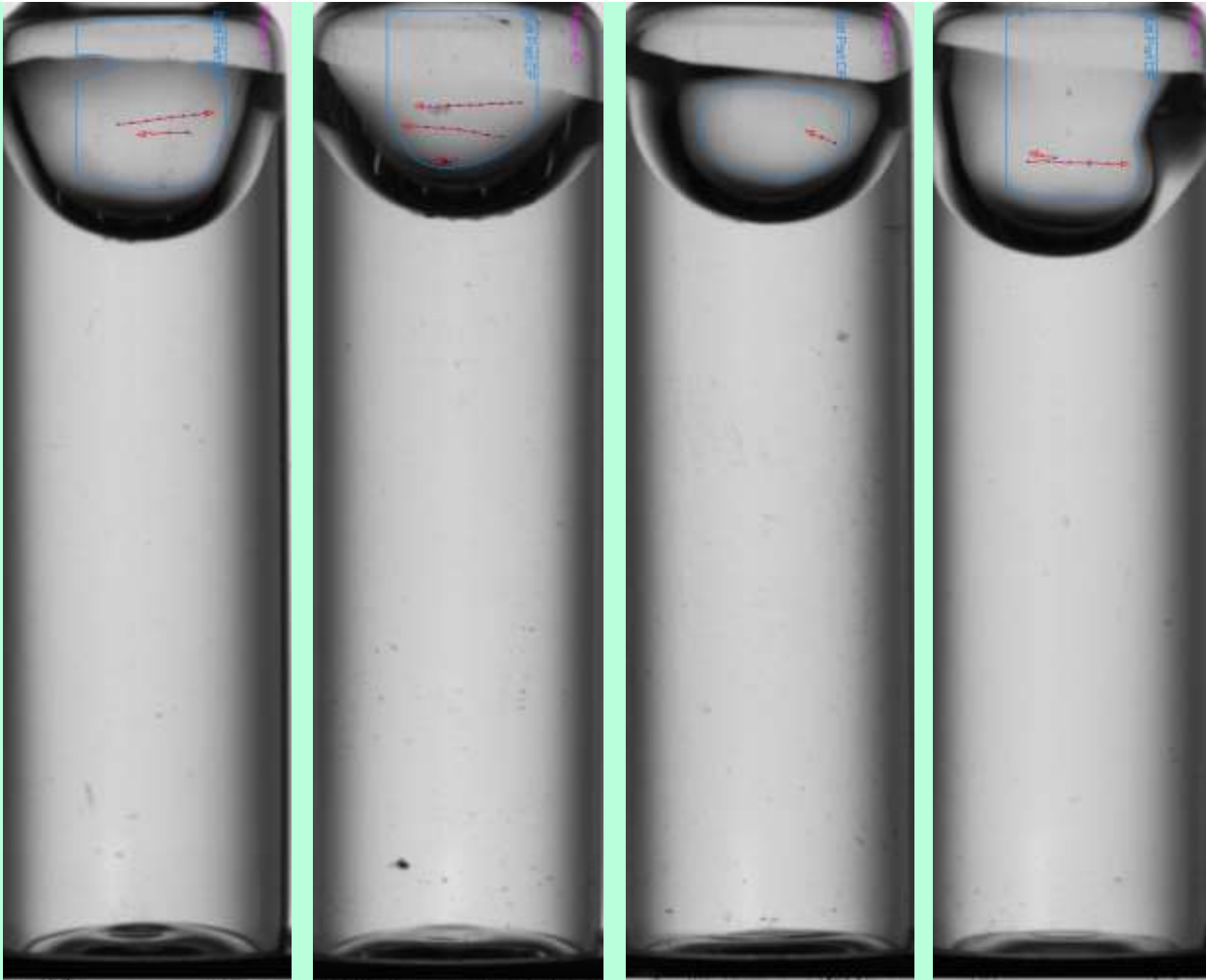
# How to achieve those performances?



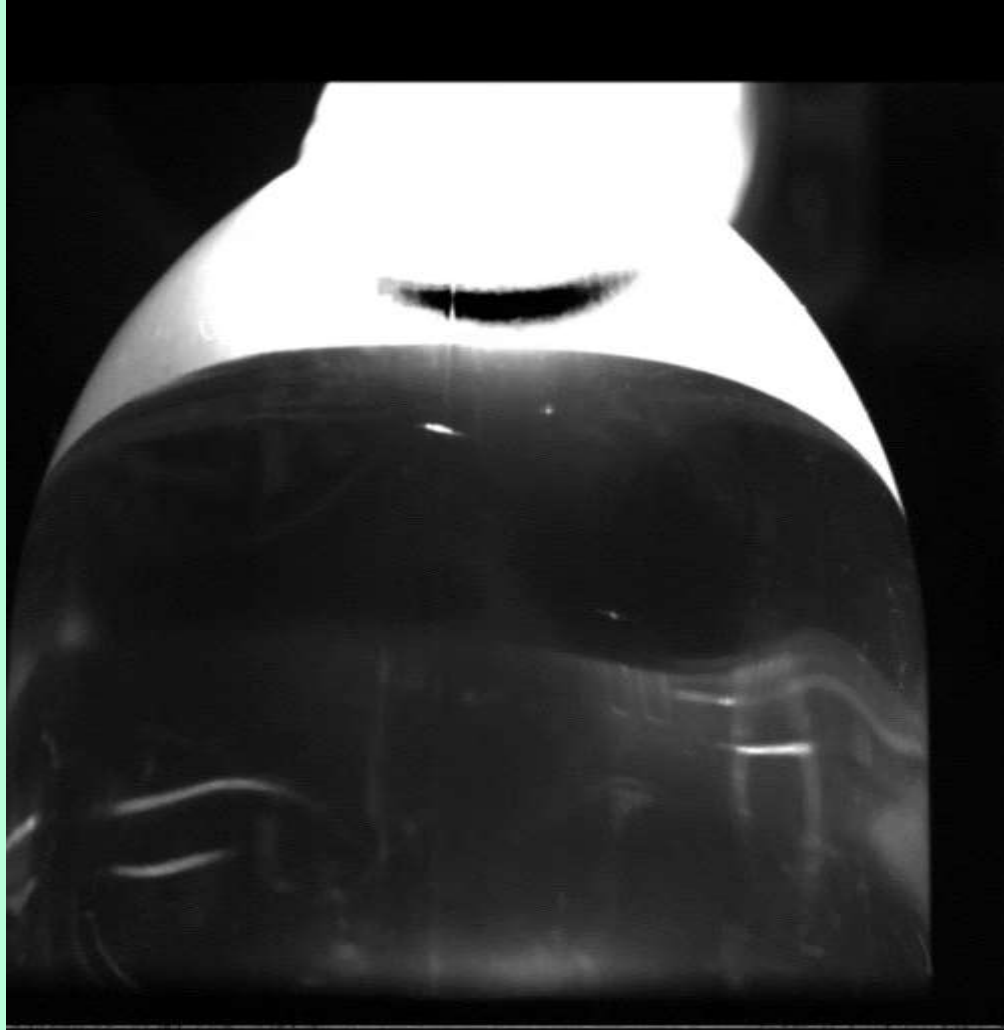
## New Generation Advanced Vision System Facts

- 64 high resolution images per container per particle station (2000x2000pxls)
- 256 images per container for particle inspection
- 1GB of particle inspection data per container to process in real-time

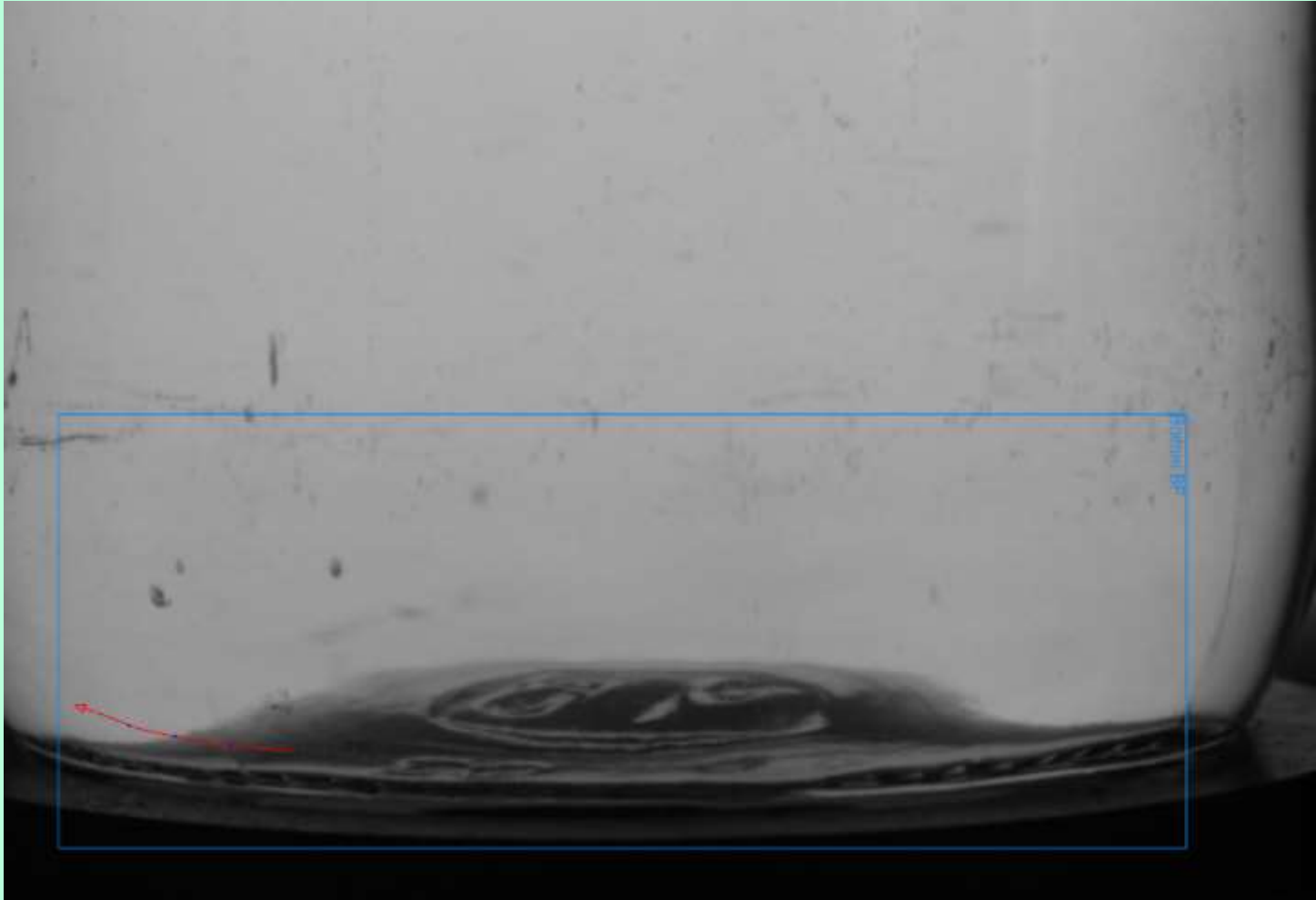
# Trajectory, best solution for floating Particles Inspection



# Trajectory, best solution for floating Particles Inspection



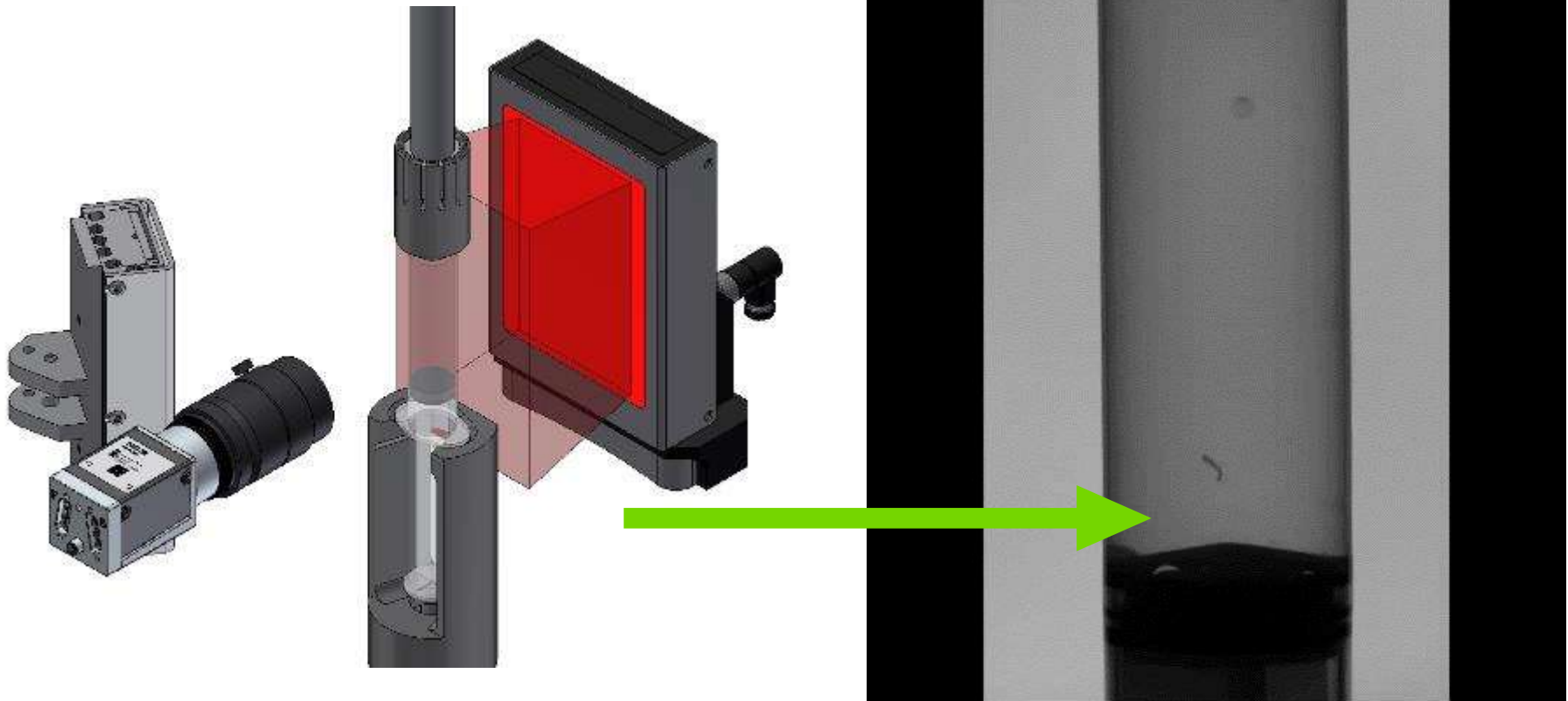
# Trajectory best performing for bottom Particles Inspection



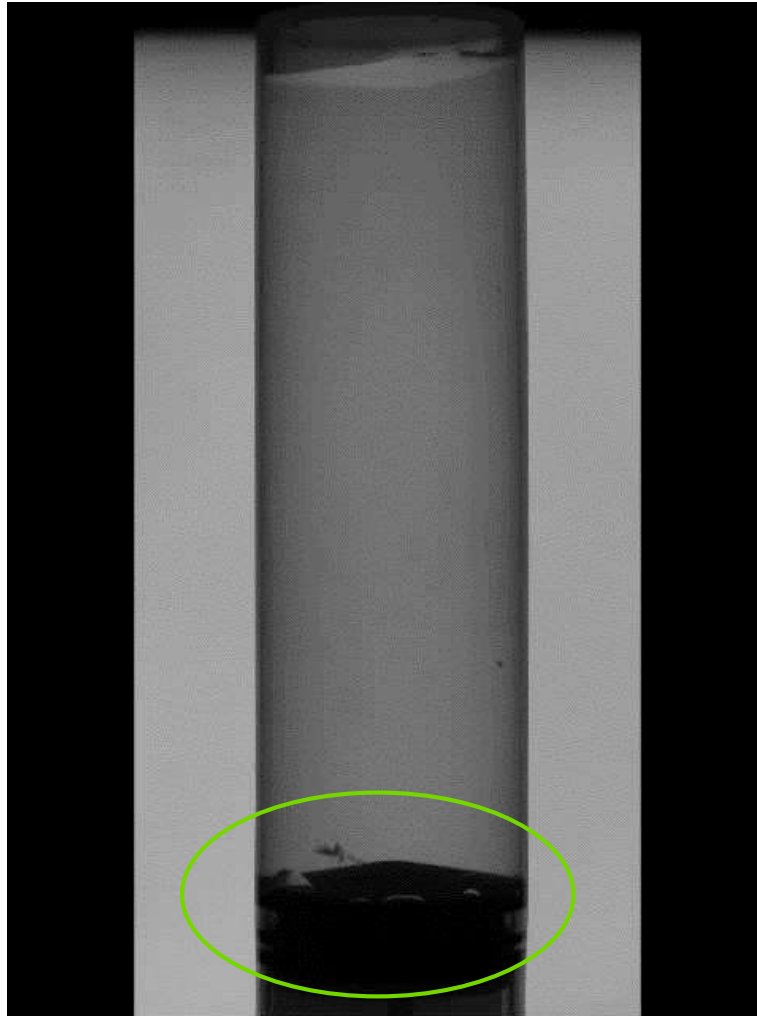
# View of particles inspection on syringes

## Particle Inspection: particle white background

To detect absorbing particles

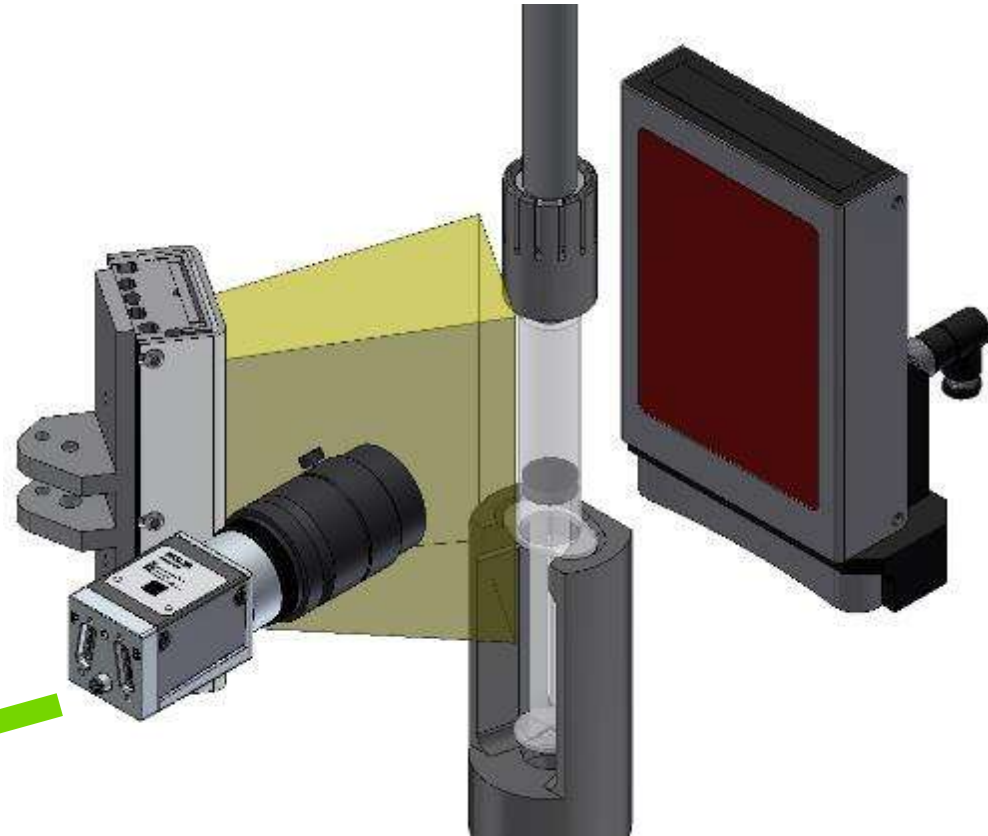
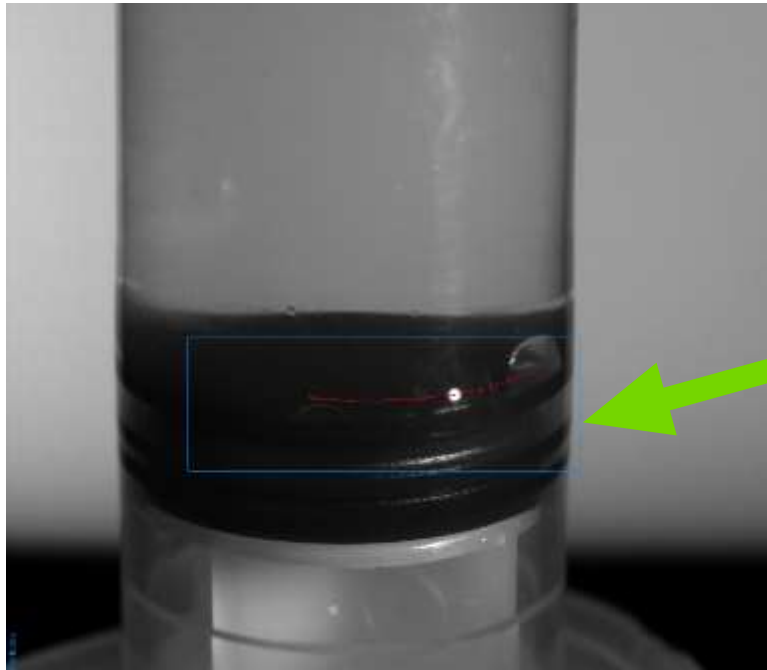


## Particle Inspection Video : particle white background



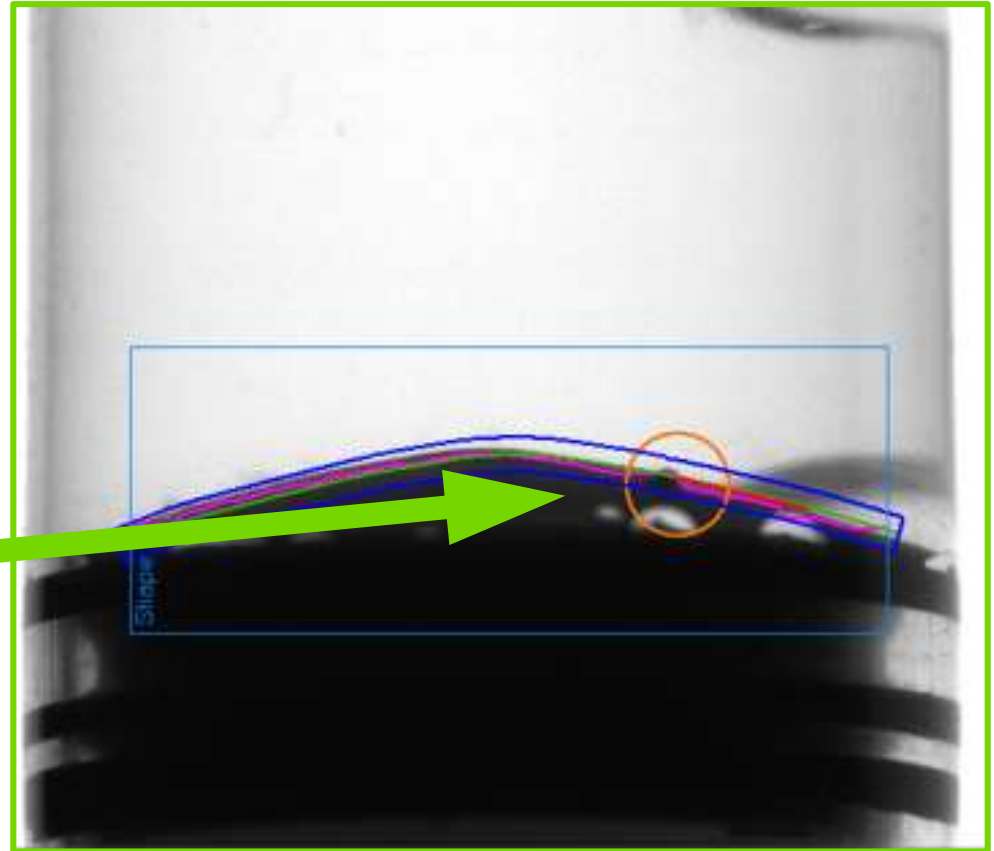
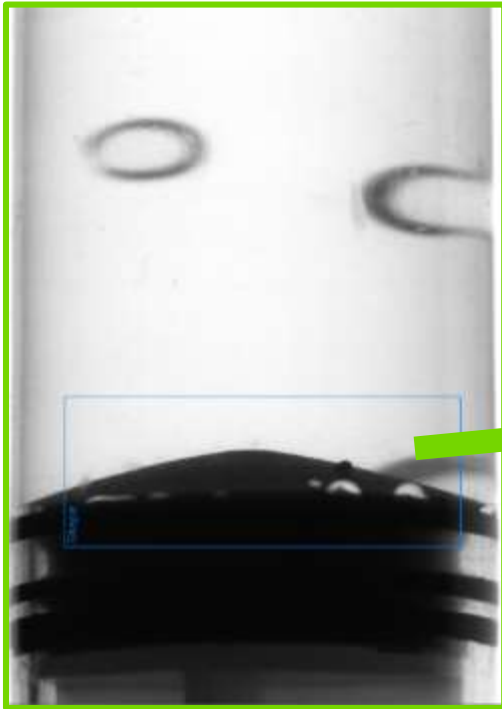
## Particle Inspection: particle with frontal light

To detect reflecting particles or fibers



## Cosmetic inspection: Heavy particles

Black sphere on the bottom

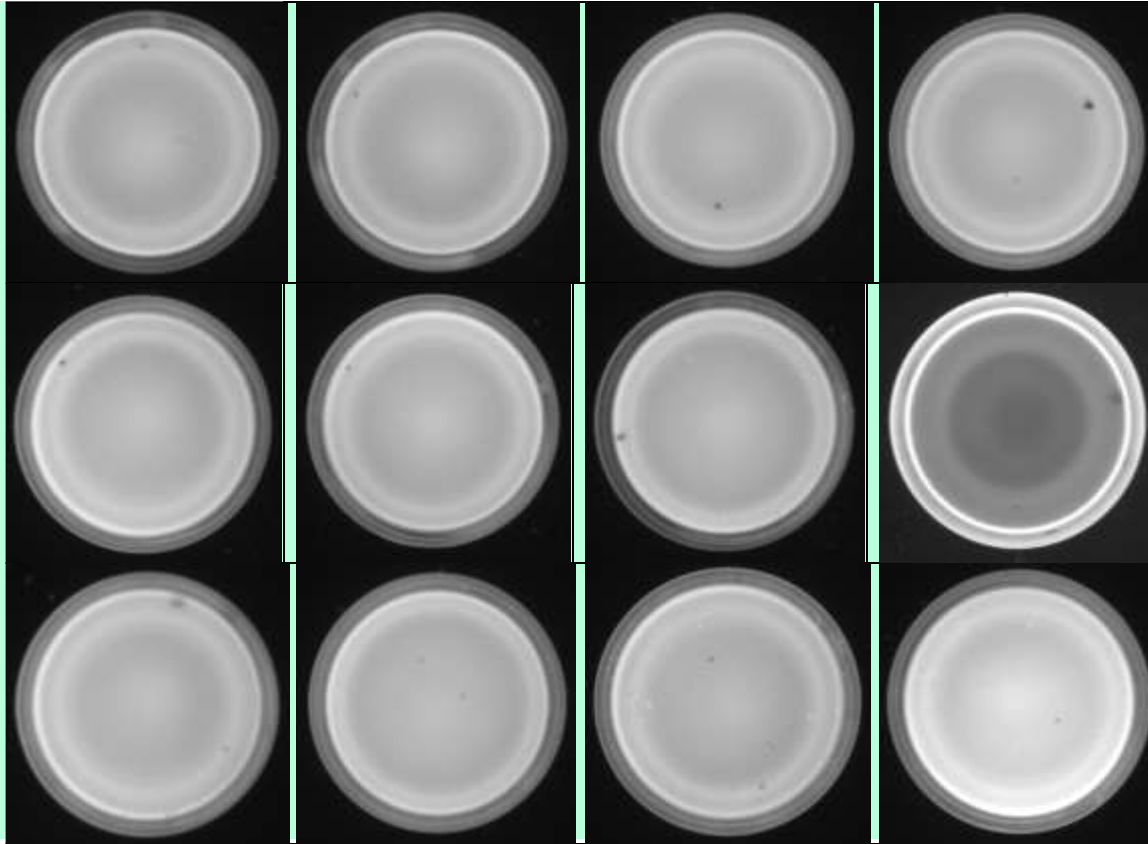


The particle detected by the inspection of the bottom profile

# Suspensions solutions: different approach

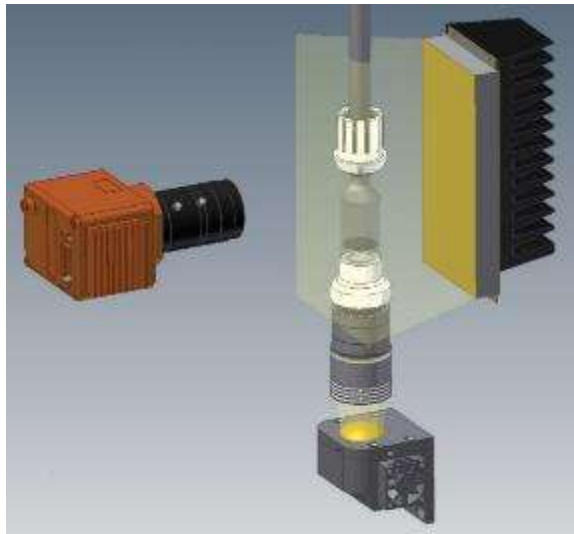
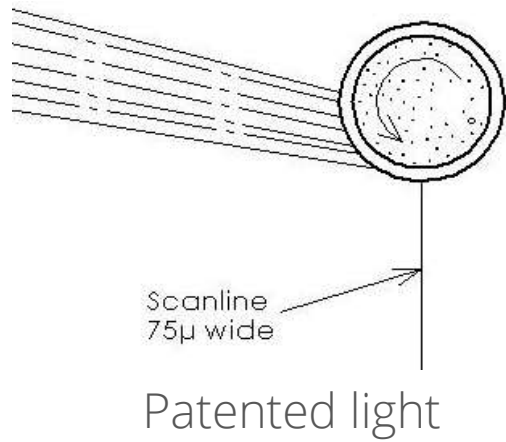


## Bottom inspection

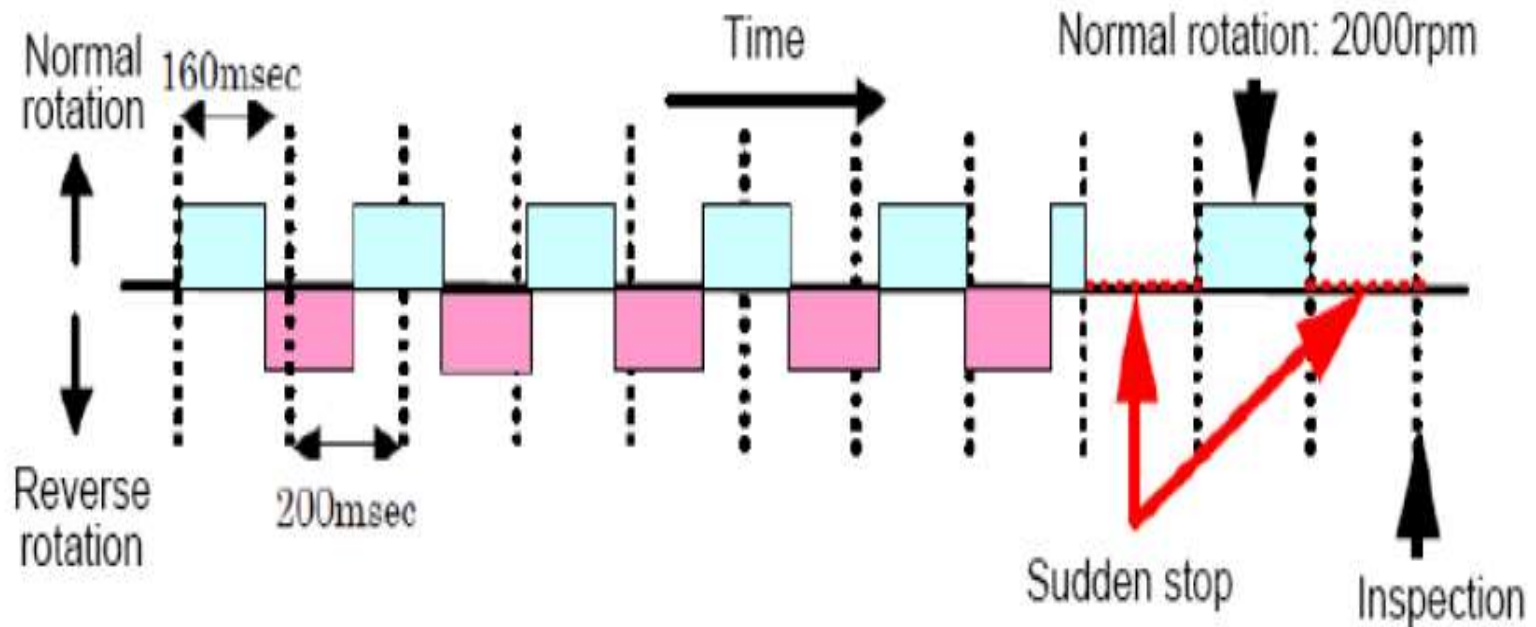


Bottom inspection at infeed complement particle inspection

# Particle inspection: Suspensions products



## Suspension Products: automatic inspection



Product preparation is fundamental for suspension

# High Speed Spinning System



High Speed Spinning System up to 6000rpm

## Particle inspection: suspensions



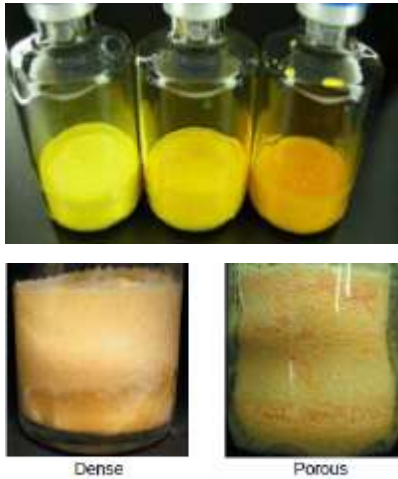
Special light combined with high speed rotation (pat.)

# Any questions?

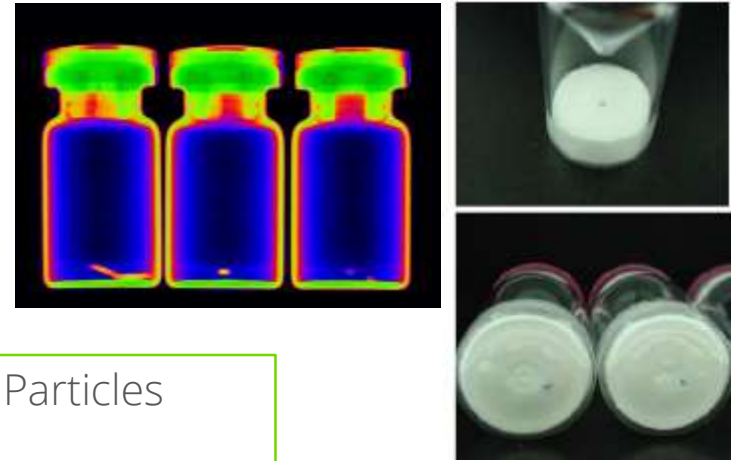
# Freeze Dried Inspection

# Freeze Dried inspection: Critical Quality Attributes

## Color Vision

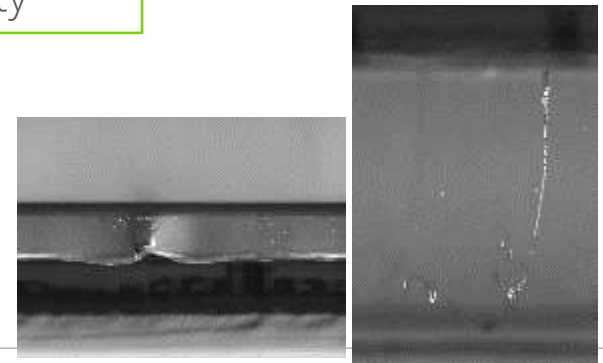
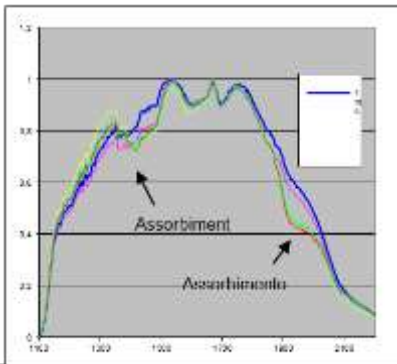


## Vision X-ray Inspection



NIR	Physical description	Particles
	Collapse	Container
	Meltback	Integrity

A multivariate approach



## View of some defects



Particulate Matter

Closure Integrity

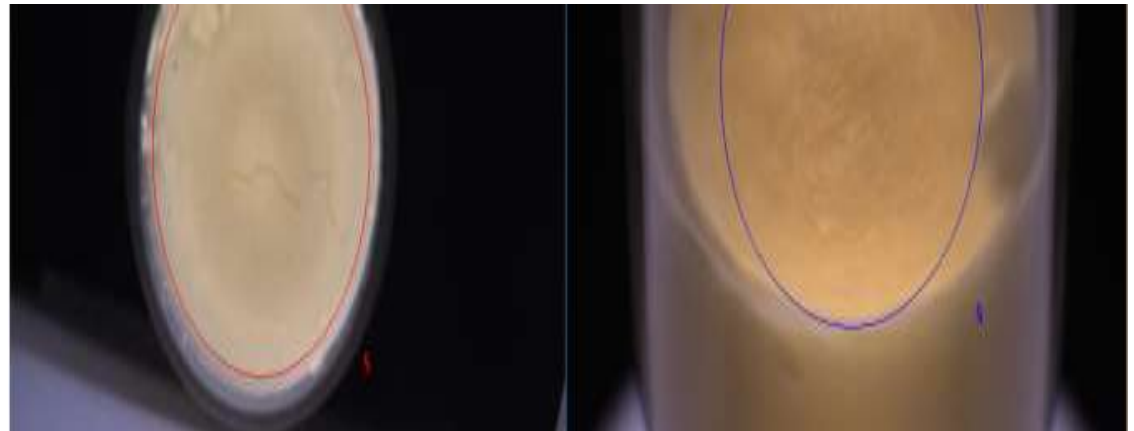
Cosmetic Defects

## Freeze Dried inspection: Color Camera

Up to 36 images are taken while the vial is rotating in front of the camera, in order to increase the analysis of the cake.

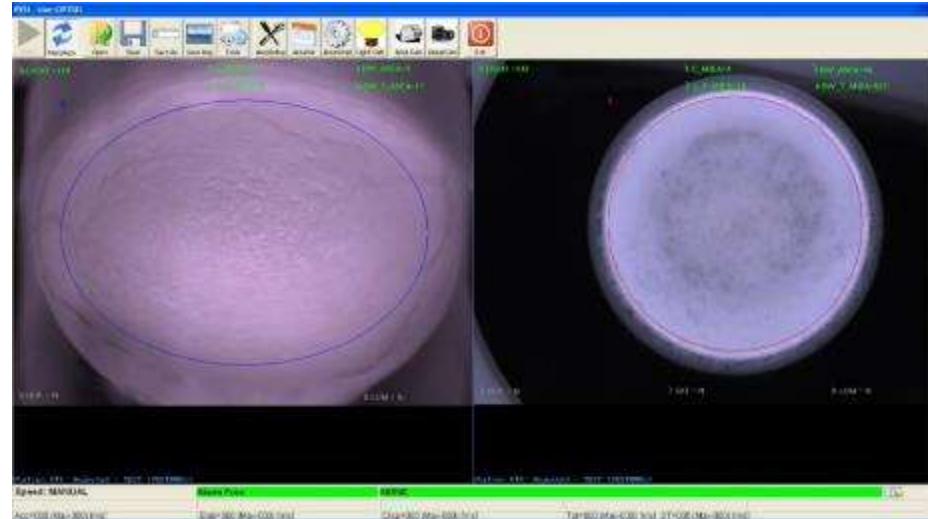
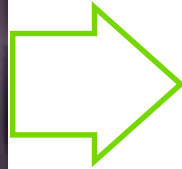


Color high resolution frame camera allows to better detect the defect inside the cake and it allows to recognize alteration on the product's color.

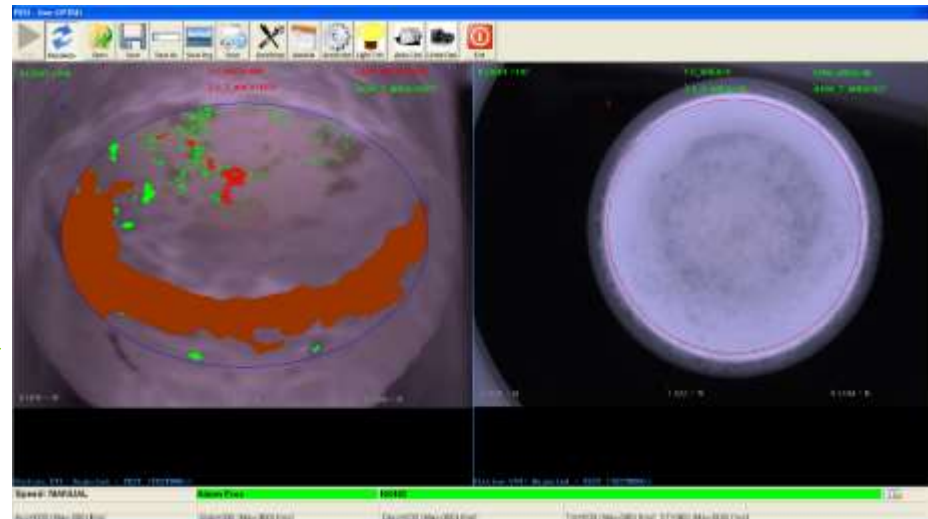
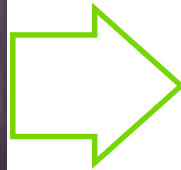


# Freeze Dried inspection: Color Camera

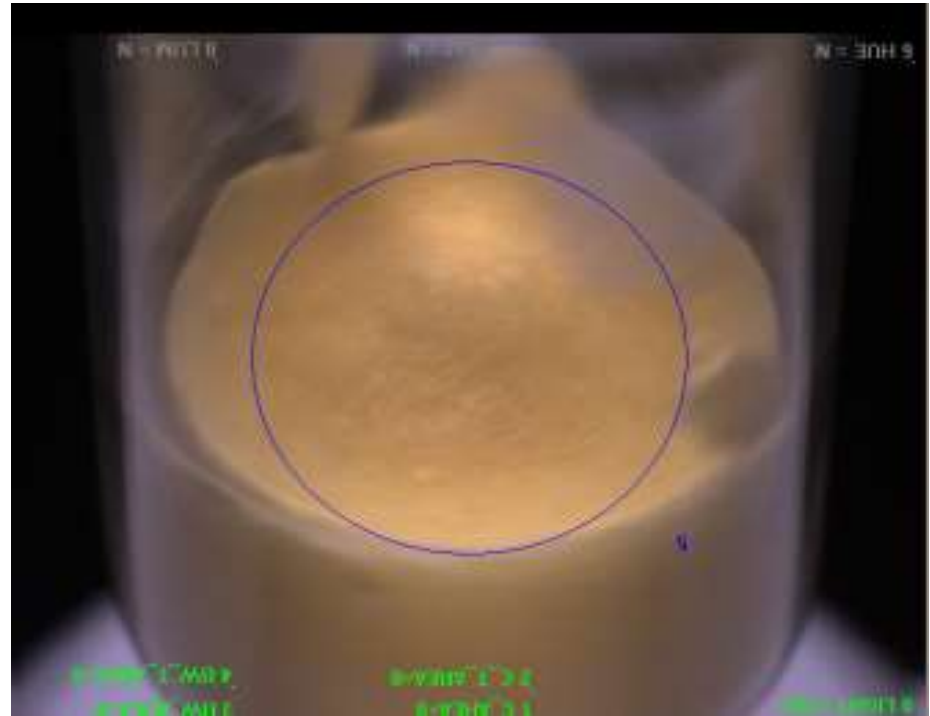
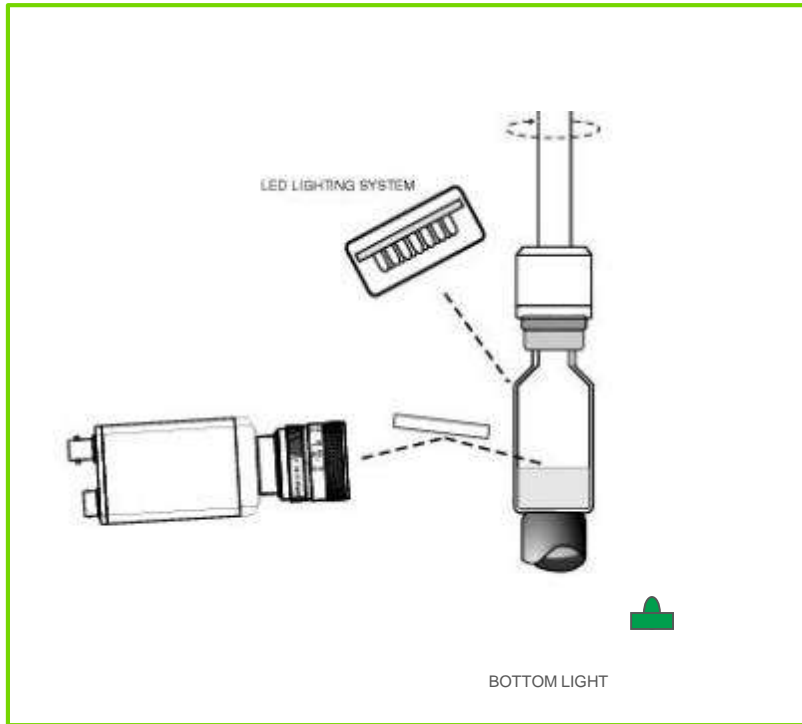
Result on the inspection  
of a good sample



Result of the inspection  
on a defected sample



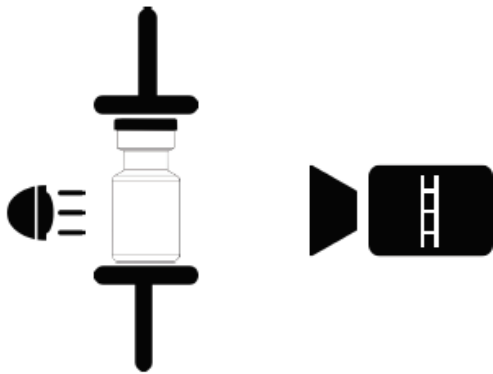
# Top Cake inspection



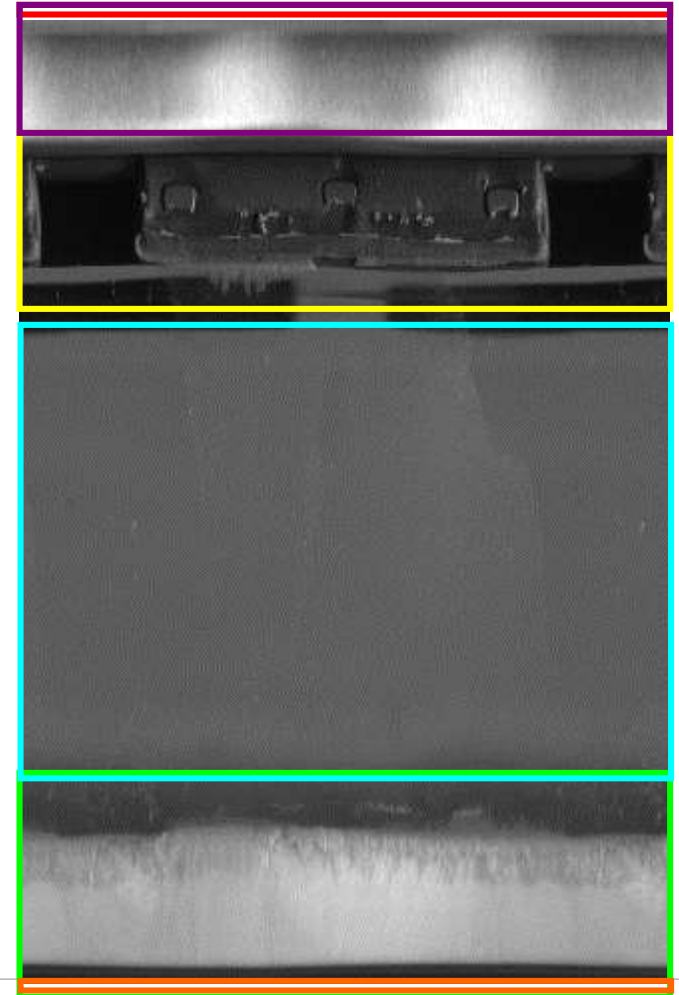
- Container in rotation for multi-perspective analysis
- Color 2000x2000 area camera at high speed (359 frames/sec)
- Mixed illumination for lighting cake or powder contamination with programmable intensity control

# Freeze Dried lateral side inspection: Line scan technology

Linear camera effectively complement standard inspection for more reliable control due to very uniform illumination



Flip-off presence  
Alu-Seal Inspection  
Product in Stopper  
Stopper Integrity

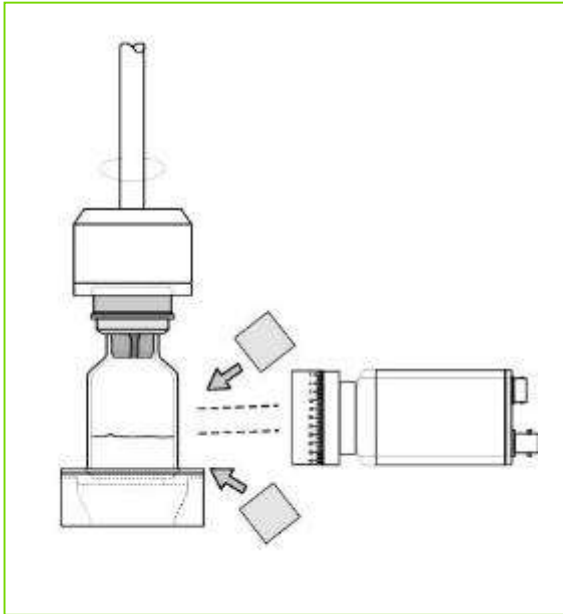


Glass Defects

Cake Height

Cake Defects

# Lateral Cake Inspection



## Area Camera

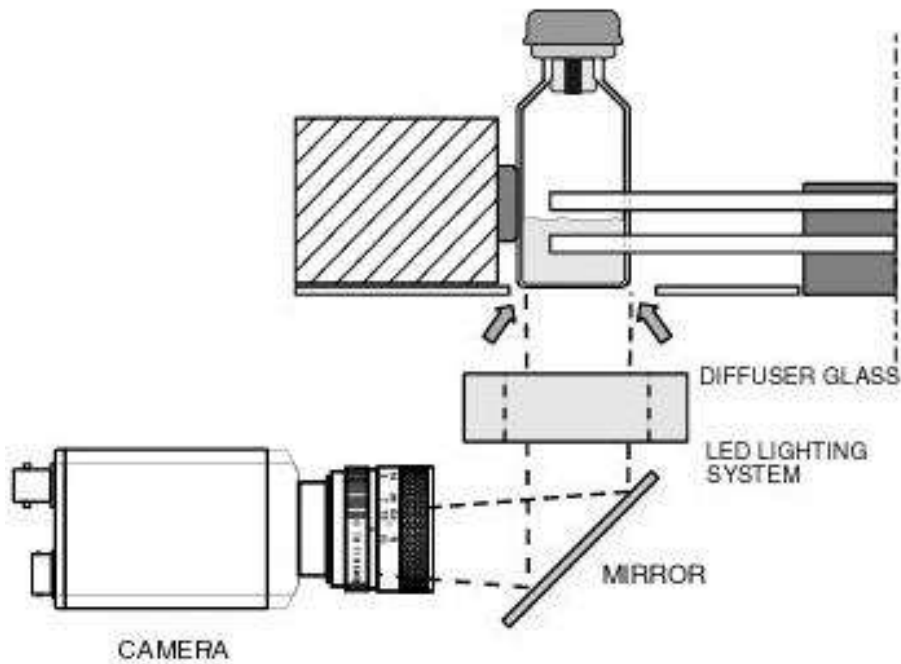
Uneven illumination  
Poor contrast  
Risk of missing defect  
Low resolution 512




## Linear Camera

Flat Illumination  
High contrast  
360° scan  
No missing defect  
High resolution 2K-4K

## Bottom Cake inspection



High resolution 1400x1000 pixels area color camera



# Contamination inside cake?

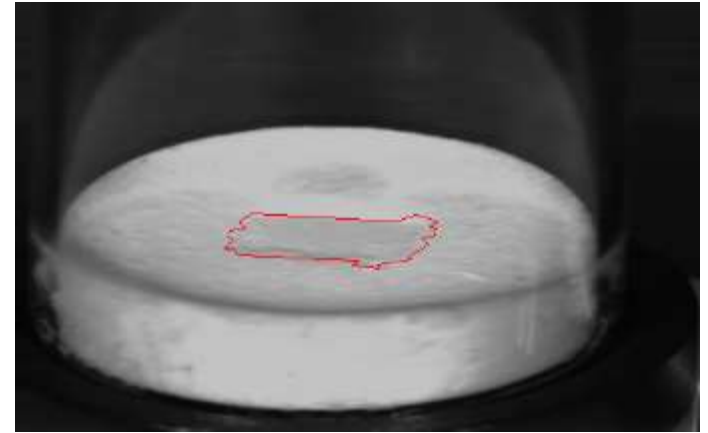
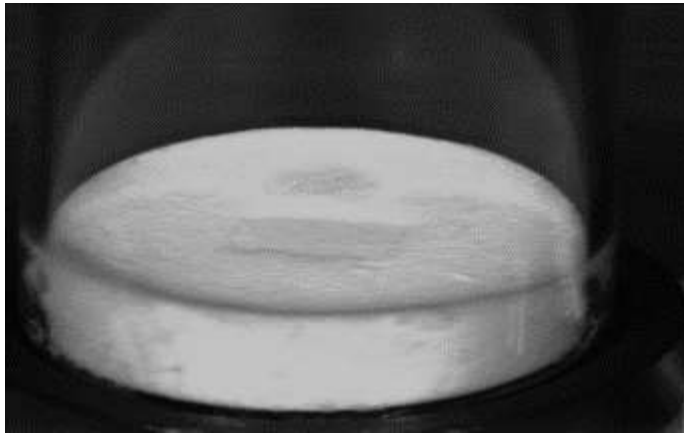
## Some Idea

## NIR Imaging: Identification of Contaminants

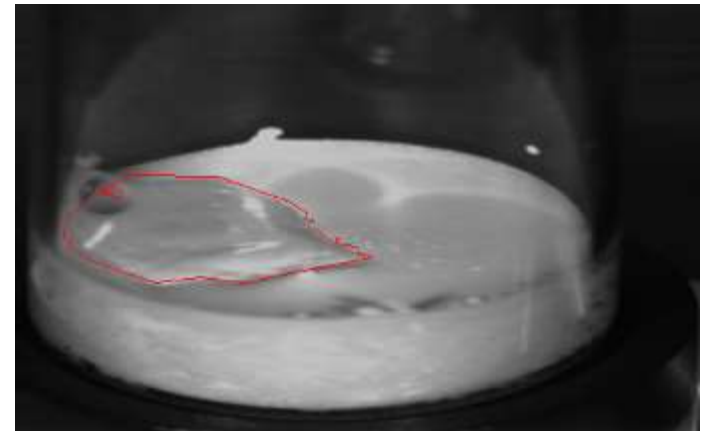
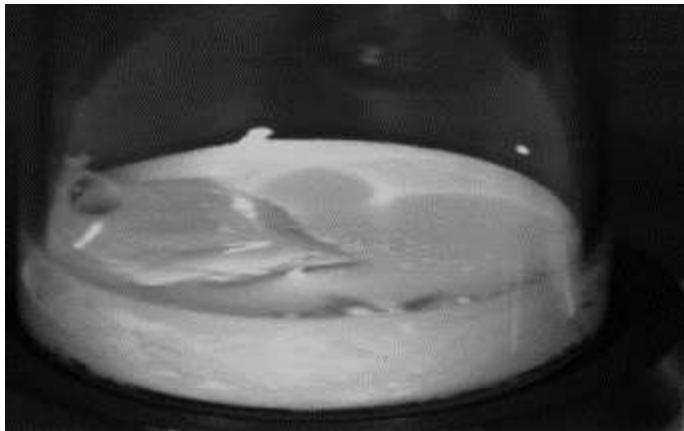
VIS

Paper fragment

NIR

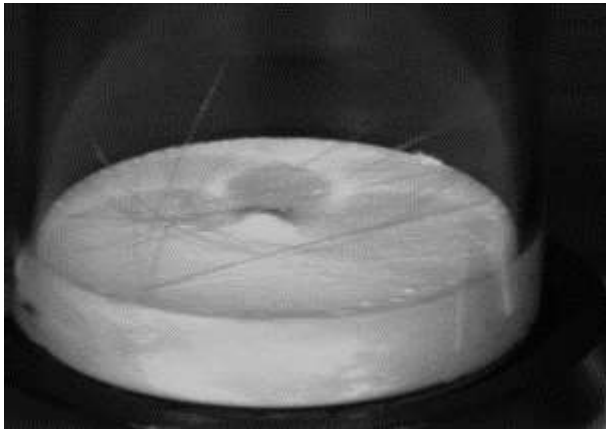


Plastic transparent layer



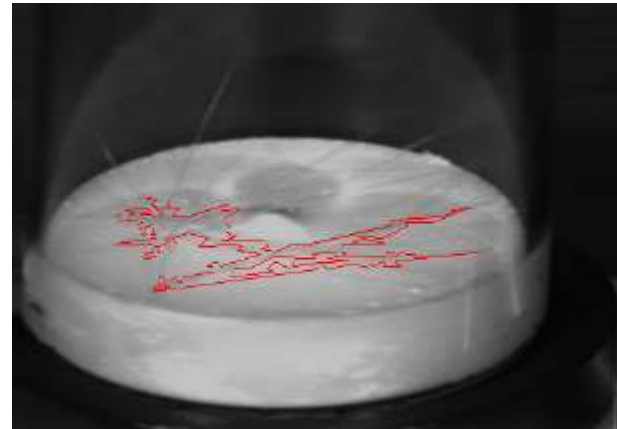
# NIR Imaging: Identification of Contaminants

VIS

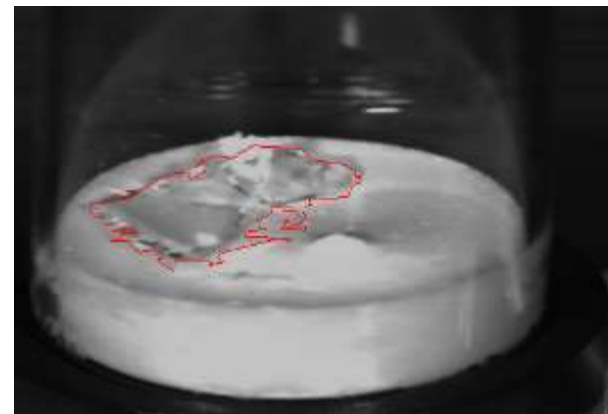
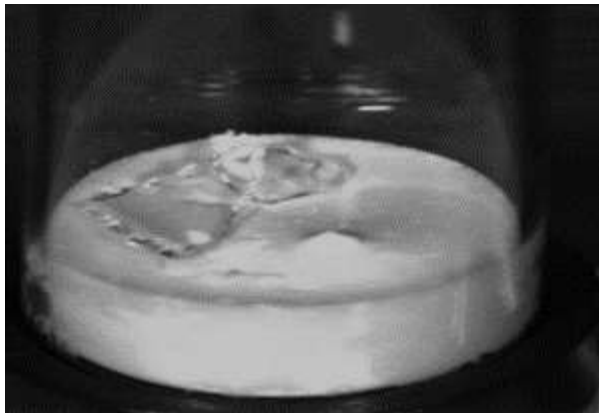


Blonde Hair

NIR



Glass Fragment



# Any questions?

# Cosmetic Inspection



# Flip Off / Alu Seal inspection: single station

The screenshot displays a machine inspection interface for a bottle cap. It features four camera views arranged in a 2x2 grid, each showing a different perspective of the cap and its seal. The interface includes a toolbar on the left with icons for navigation and settings. Each view has associated measurement data overlaid in green and white text.

**Top Left View:**

- BlobArea =0
- Hue =47
- Gray =112
- Area =32549

**Top Right View:**

- Crimp Max.Bend =6
- Crimp Def.Area =57
- AluSeal Blob Area =0
- FlipOff Blob Area =0
- FlipOff Width =272
- AluSeal Width =250
- AluSeal Height = 99 (L), 100 (R)
- Bottle Height =182

**Bottom Left View (H2) Bottle Inspection:**

- Head Time =18
- Discharge Class =0
- (VID=0) (GRY=58)

**Bottom Right View (H3) Bottle Inspection:**

- Head Time =18
- Discharge Class =0
- (VID=0) (GRY=61)

**Bottom Left View (Detailed):**

- Crimp Max.Bend =6
- Crimp Def.Area =72
- AluSeal Blob Area =0
- FlipOff Blob Area =0
- FlipOff Width =261
- AluSeal Width =237
- AluSeal Height = 99 (L), 94 (R)
- Bottle Height =183

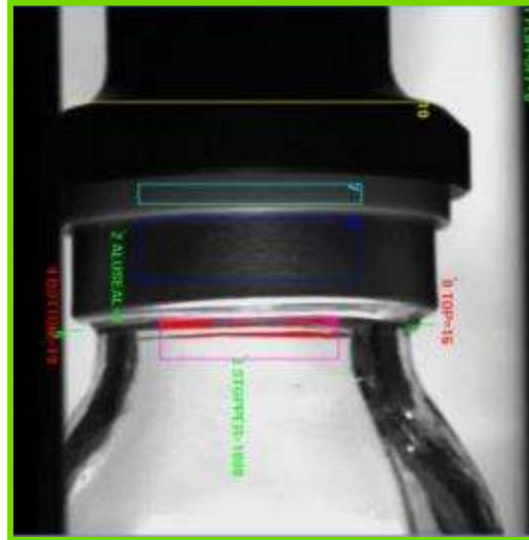
**Bottom Right View (Detailed):**

- Crimp Max.Bend =6
- Crimp Def.Area =133
- AluSeal Blob Area =0
- FlipOff Blob Area =0
- FlipOff Width =267
- AluSeal Width =245
- AluSeal Height = 102 (L), 100 (R)
- Bottle Height =180

**Bottom Status Bar:**

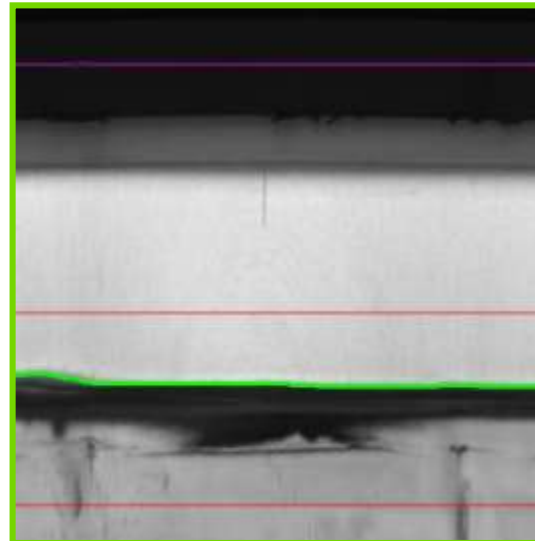
- Camera: configurate: 12, trovate: 12
- Stop
- Vial50ml (ver 001)
- 15:57:29.948 15:57:29.948 WRNGEN\_0 ALM WRN00000 ESCLUSIONE RIPARI
- 10:22:03.059 10:22:03.059 ALARMGENERAL\_72 ALM ALM00072

# Alu Seal inspection



## Area Camera

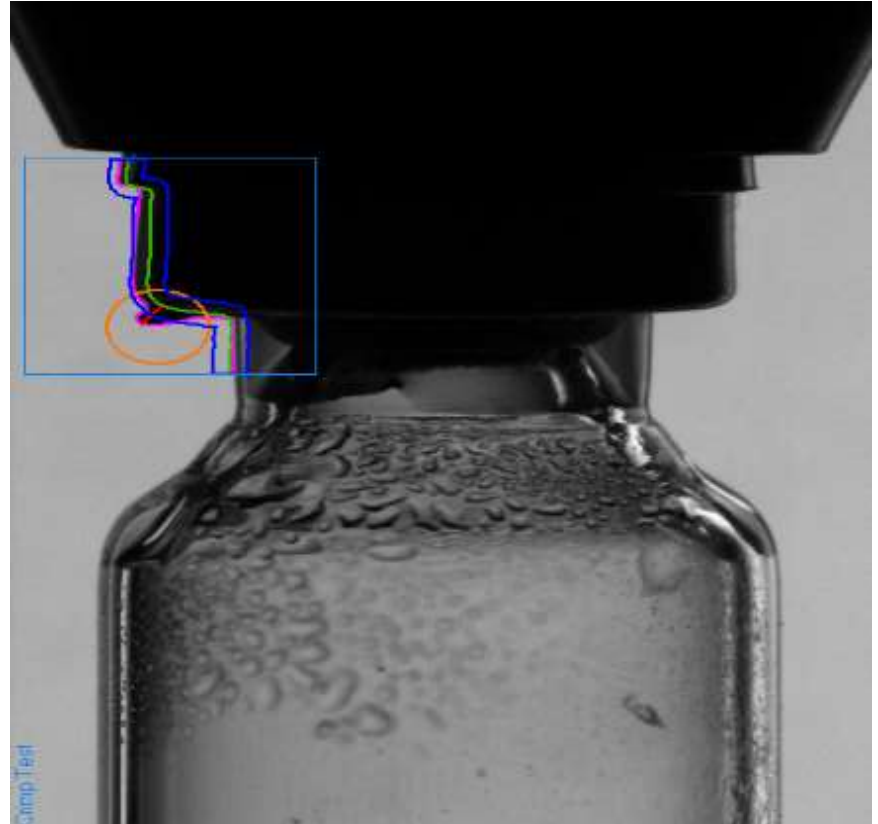
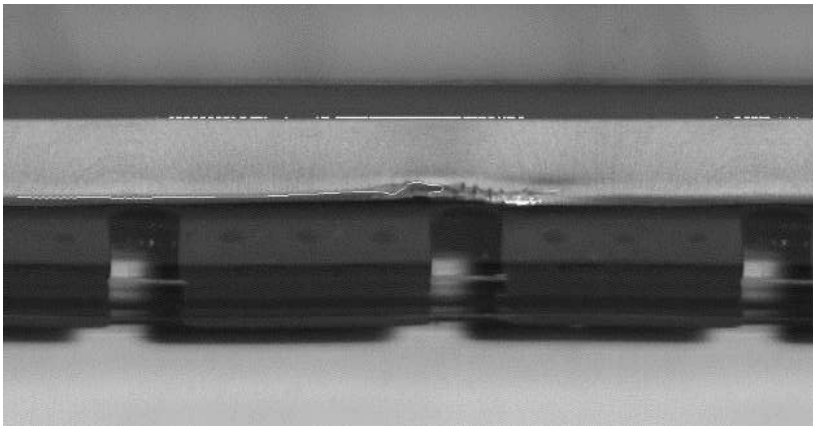
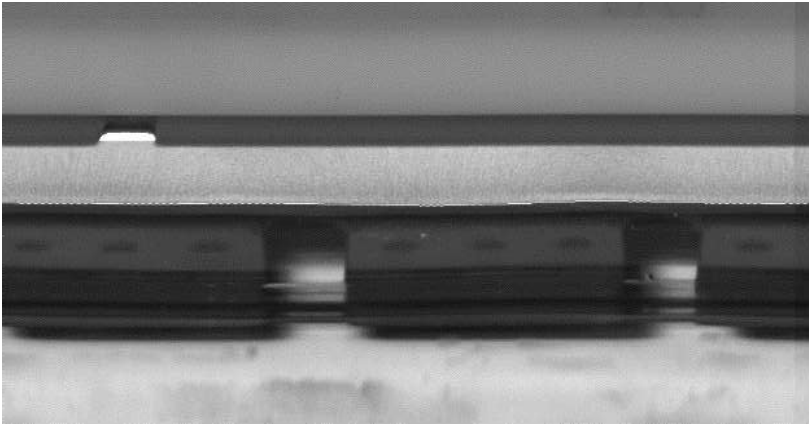
Uneven illumination  
Poor contrast  
Risk of missing defect  
Low resolution 512



## Linear Camera

Flat illumination  
High contrast  
360° scan  
No missing defect  
High resolution 2K-4K

# Inspection Technology: Linear Scan Camera and/or Matrix camera



## Aluseal Inspection

# Special Technology Linear Scan Cameras

## Possible Source:

- Improper crimping station setup
- Variability on closure components

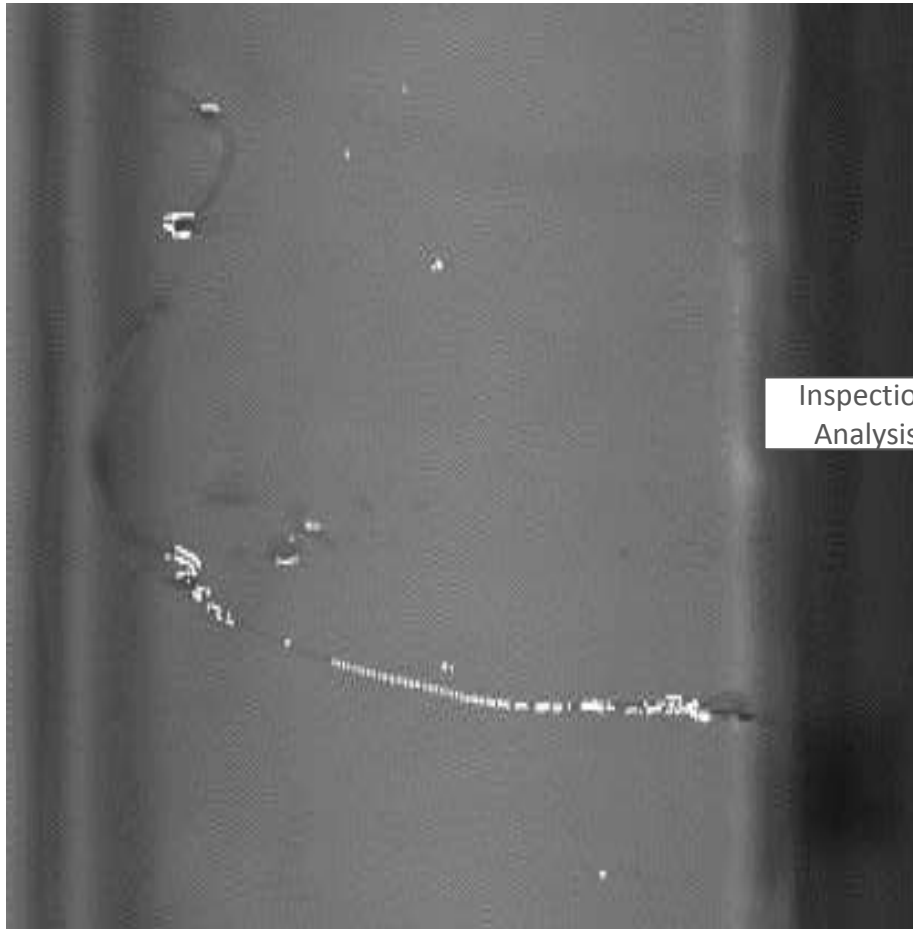
## Resolution:

- Detect crimping defect smaller than 50 $\mu$ m

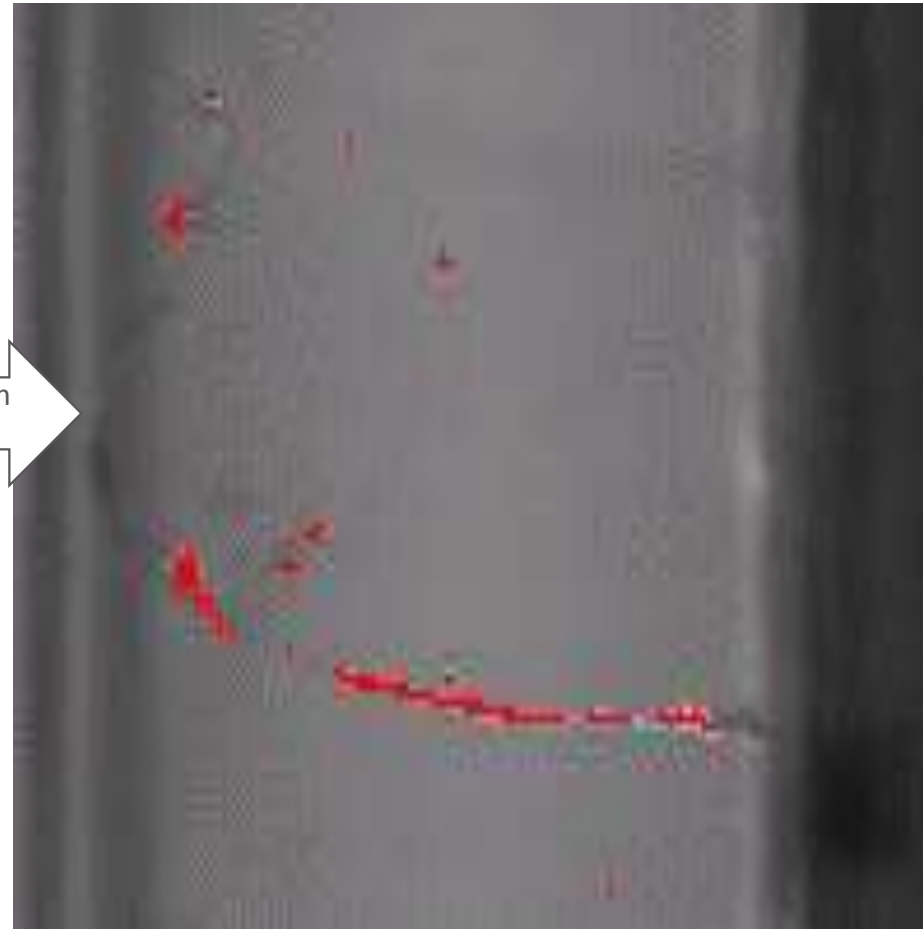
## Linear scan camera for OCR control

- Interactive definition of OCR and CODE READER
- High resolution print verification using linear cameras and special illumination techniques on alu-seal and glass surface

# Linear scan camera for glass inspection



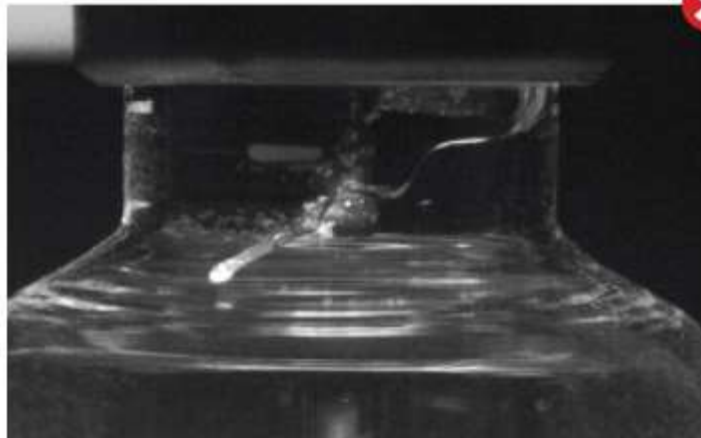
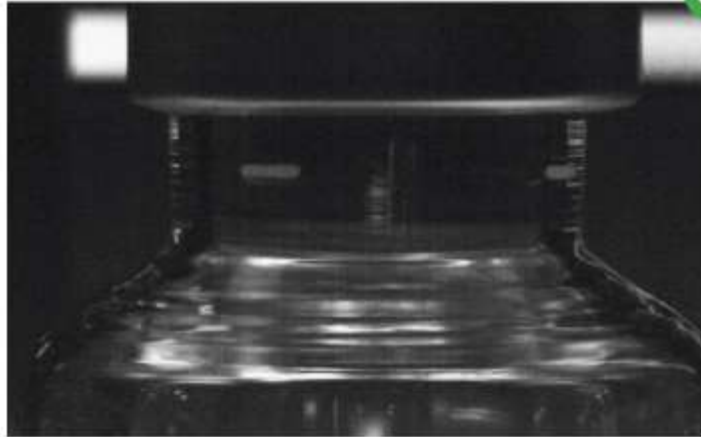
Inspection  
Analysis



Body inspection (scratch on the surface)

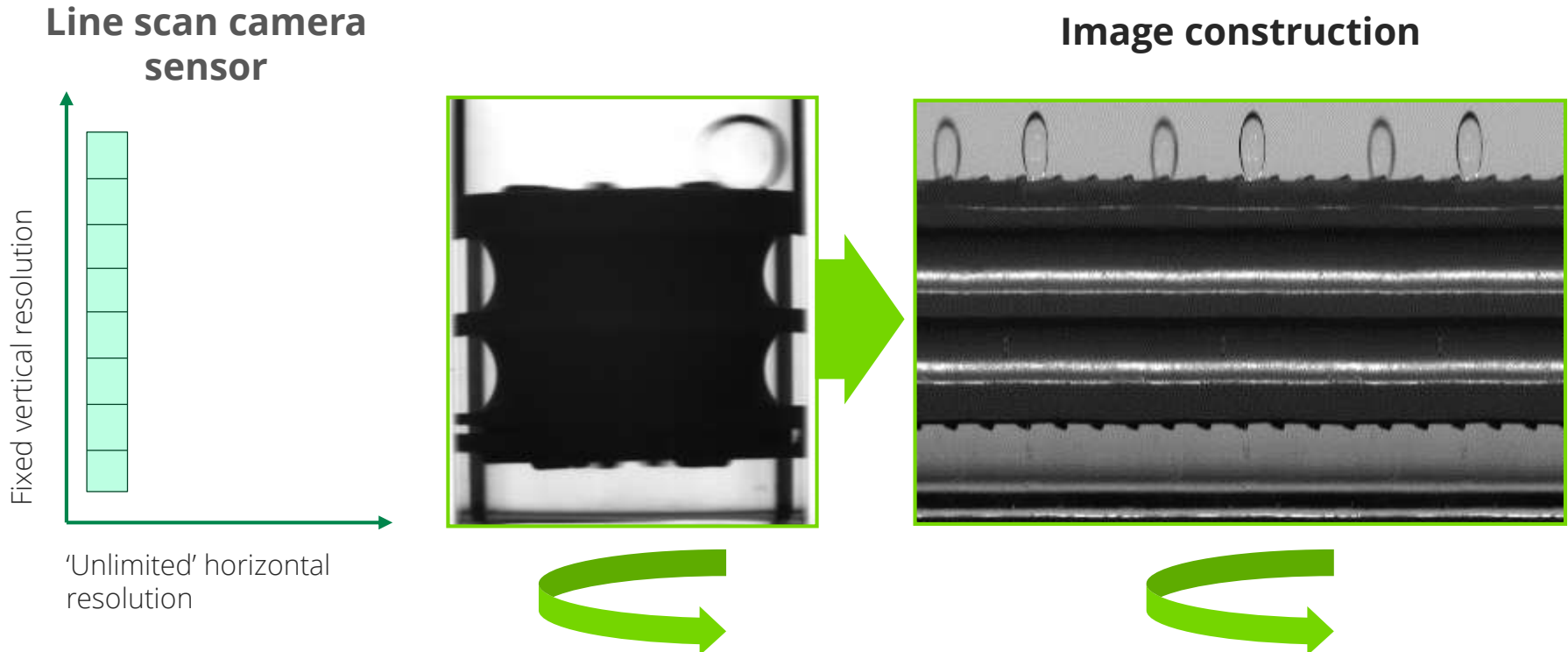
Scratch highlighted in red color

## Cracks on neck/ shoulder area



# Special Technology Linear Scan Cameras

## Linear Scan Cameras for plunger inspection



# Defects on syringes

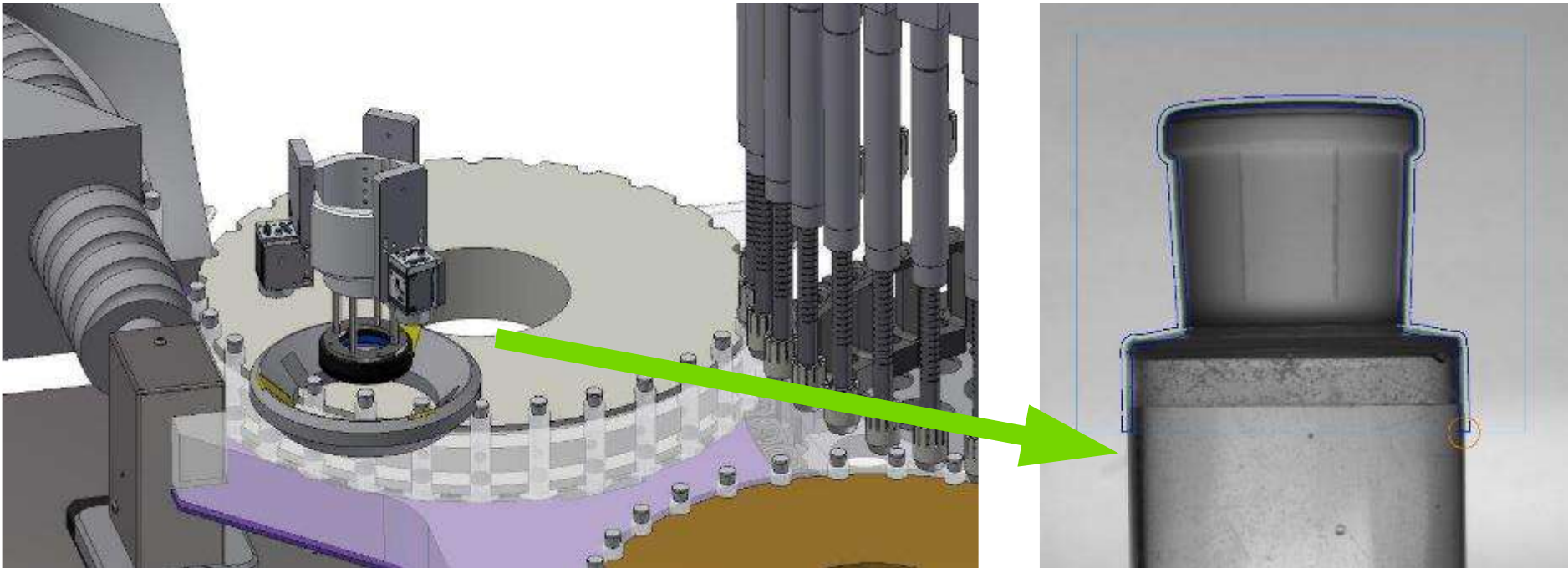


Particulate matter

Closure integrity

Cosmetic defects

## Cosmetic Inspection : Tip Cap, defect and shape control



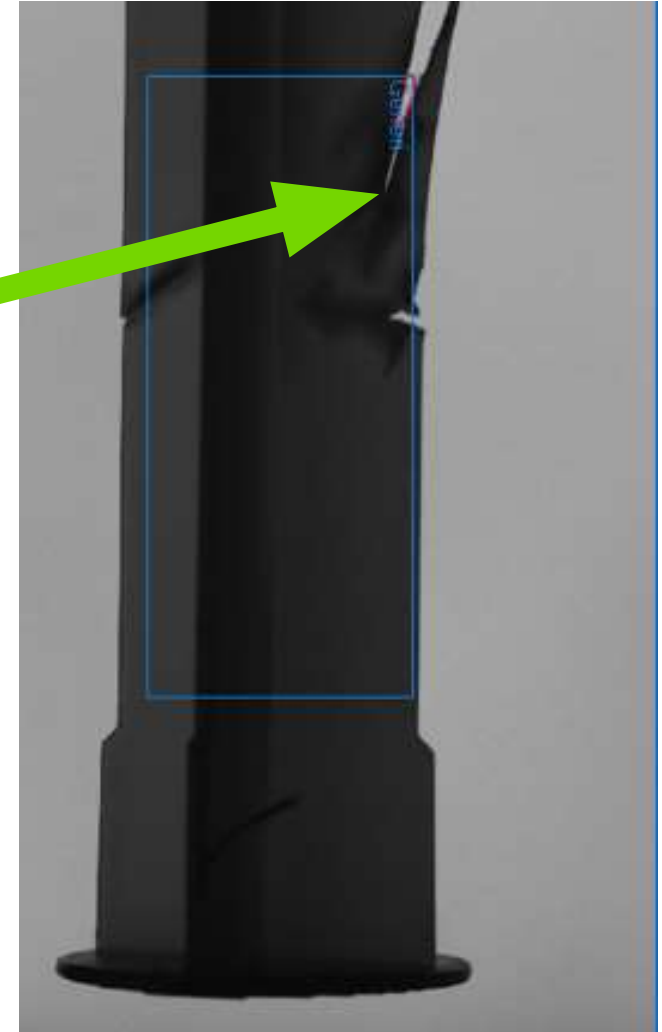
- Performed on the infeed starwheel
- Three high resolution cameras at 120° with back and front illumination
- Rejection before the loading in the turret to avoid the seal breakage when the tip is not correctly positioned.

## Cosmetic Inspection : needle cover inspection

Cosmetic defect  
Good container

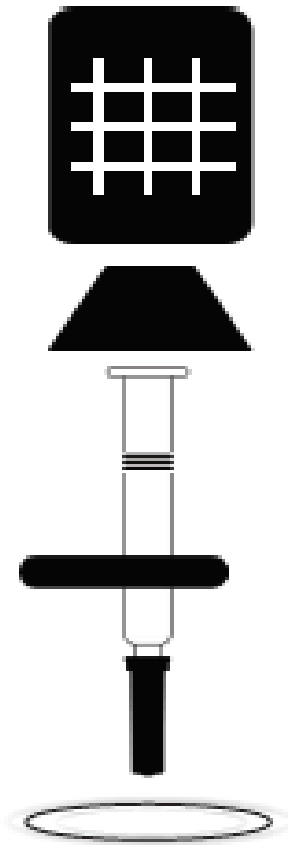


Cosmetic defect  
Bad container



# Finger grip inspection

## Inspection Setup



# Any questions?

# Leak Detection and Containers Integrity

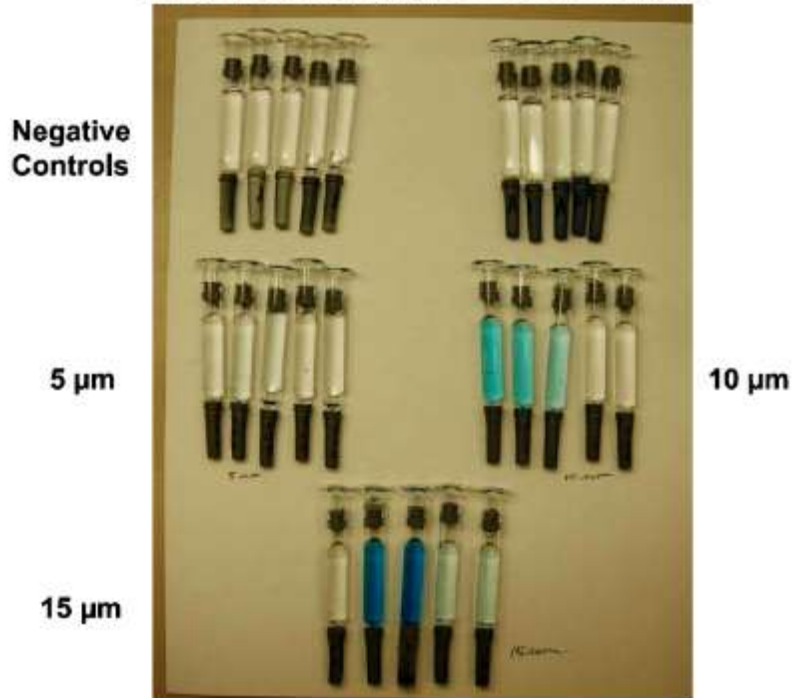
# Container Closure Integrity: Dye Ingress Leak Detection

Dye Method	USP31<381> Ph.Eur. 3.2.9	ISO 8362-5 Annex C
Dye	0.1% aq. Methylene Blue	
Vacuum	-27KPa	-25KPa
Time at Vacuum	10 min	30 min
Time at ambient	30 min	30min
Detection	Visual inspection	

Risk Of Microbial Ingress if  $>1\mu\text{m}$

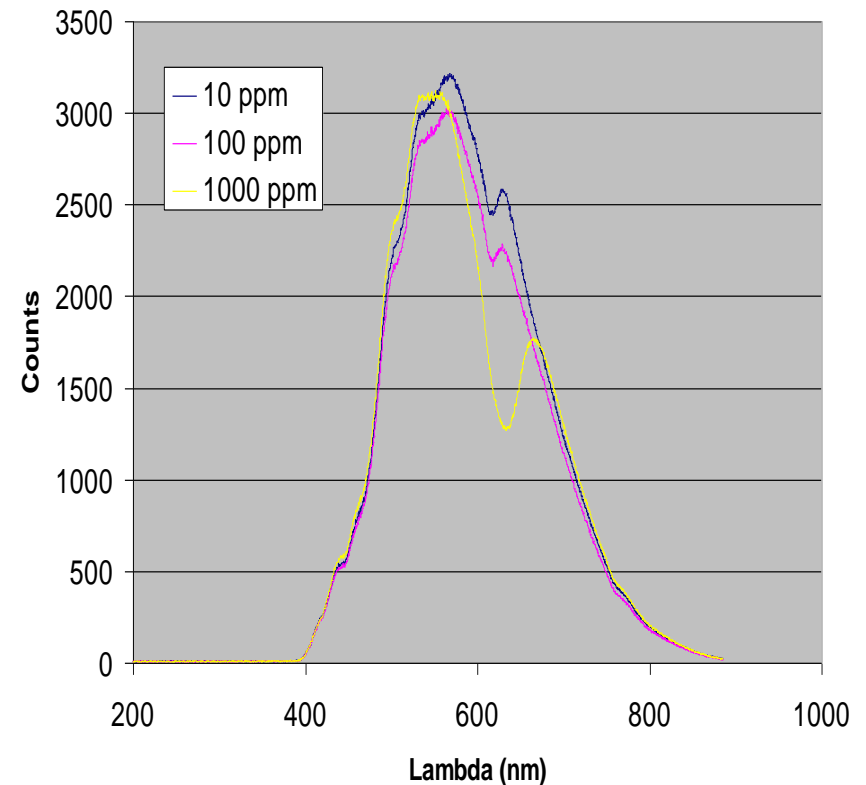
# Container Closure Integrity: Dye Ingress Leak Detection

USP/PhEur Dye Ingress Test Samples



RxPax, LLC, PDA Metro Chapter, May 2011  
H. Wolf, et al, PDA J Pharm Sci & Technol., 63, 2009, p. 489 - 498

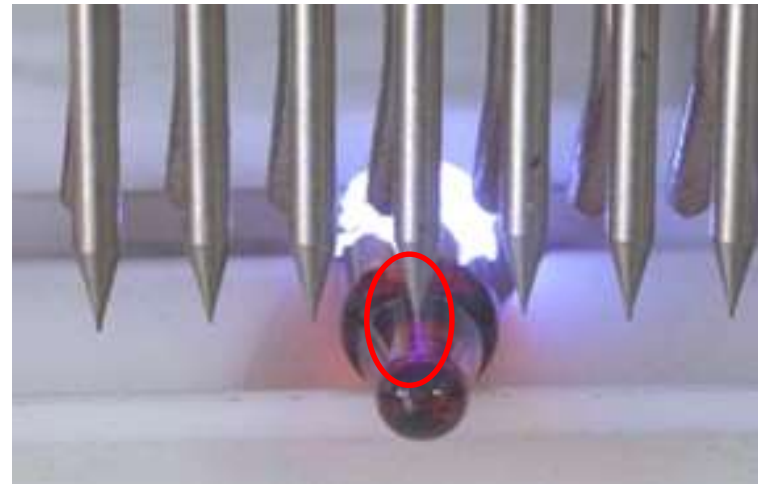
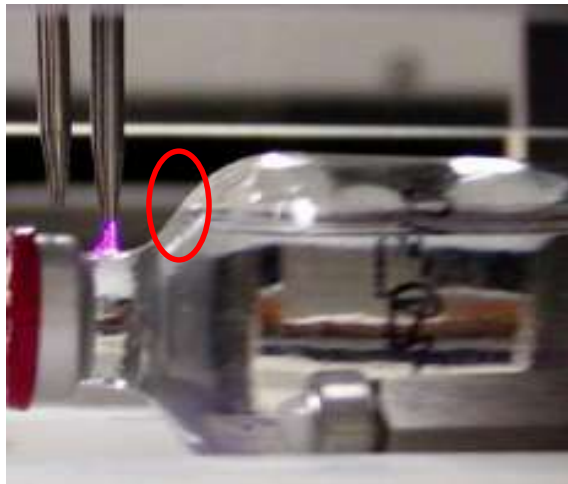
Dye Test Not Sensitive Enough for Human Operator



Dye Test Sensitive if in conjunction with automatic spectrometer

# Container Closure Integrity: HV Leak Detection

- Superior to Dye Test
- Objective
- Fast > 400 pcs/min
- HV better than Vacuum for viscous liquid
- No influence on proteinaceous active products



HV Test Sensitive Enough For Integrity Assurance

# HVLD Exposure Effects on Product P-C Properties

## ImClone Systems Products

HVLD Exposure	Product A				Product B				Product C			
	Monomeric Peak		High MW Species	Low MW Species	Monomeric Peak		High MW Species	Low MW Species	Monomeric Peak		High MW Species	Low MW Species
	Rel. MW	% Purity	% Purity	% Purity	Rel. MW	% Purity	% Purity	% Purity	Rel. MW	% Purity	% Purity	% Purity
None	142	97.6	1.5	1.0	138	98.0	0.5	1.1	170	99.1	0	0.9
1 x 25kV	142	97.5	1.5	1.0	138	98.0	0.5	1.1	170	99.1	0	0.9
10 x 25kV	142	97.5	1.5	1.0	138	98.0	0.5	1.1	170	99.1	0	0.9

**Summary:** HVLD exposure demonstrated no impact

Source: RxPax, LLC, PDA Metro Chapter, May 2011

# Vacuum Decay as alternative solution

For dry or liquid products, most package systems

Detects pressure rise from gas or vapor egress limitations

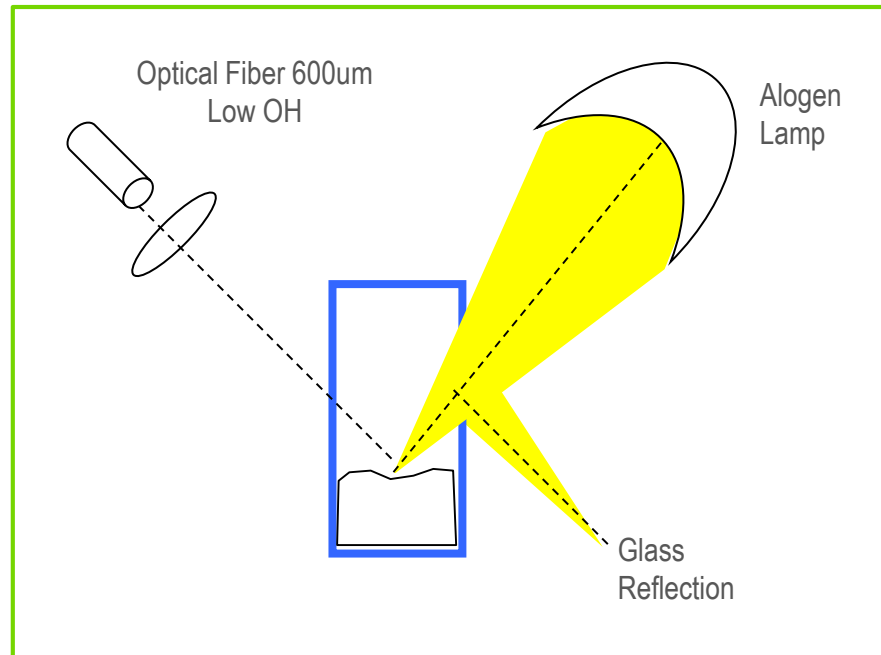
- Protein clogging often prevents leak detection
- Liquid leaks may contaminate test chamber

Considerations

- Faster tests limit sensitivity
- Instrument design/make can influence test results
  - Transducers and internal system design
  - No-leak baseline stability

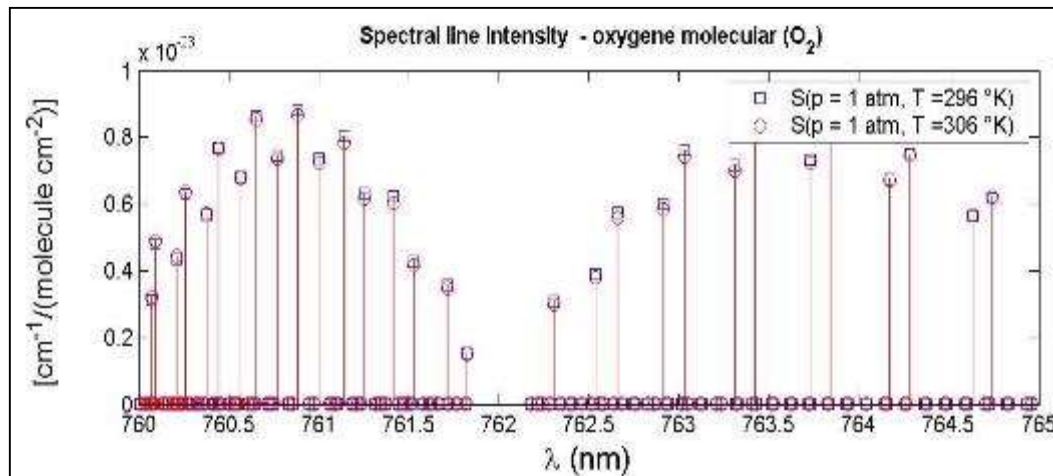
Source: RxPax, LLC, PDA Metro Chapter, May 2011

# NIR Spectroscopy for Lyophilized products



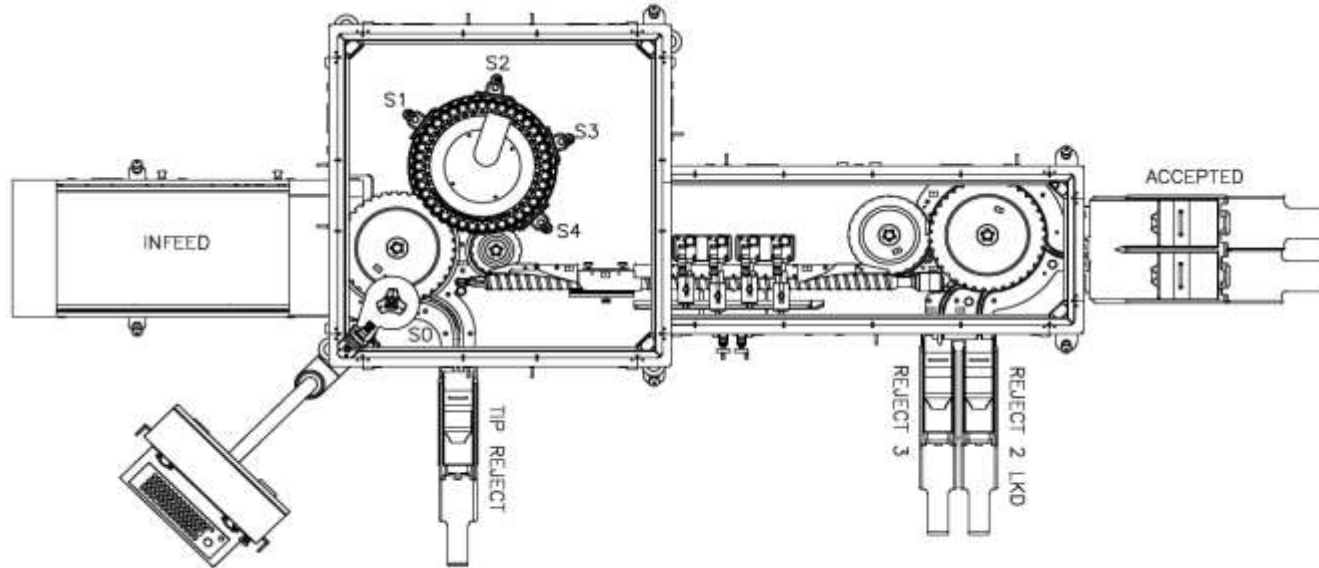
- Air path layout for easy integration into inspection machine
- H<sub>2</sub>O Absorption Band 1400 nm and 1900 nm

# Headspace Gas Analysis Measurement Layout



# Fully integrated solution

Ref. Layout file name



## Inspection configuration details

Inspection station	Inspection detail
S0	TIP INSPECTION/ ALU SEAL
S1	GLASS DEFECT ON LATERAL SIDE STILL PARTICLES VISCOUS PRODUCTS
S2	PARTICLES / FILL LEVEL
S3	PARTICLES
S4	PARTICLES

# Any questions?



# Thank you for your attention!

For further information please visit  
[www.engineeringstevanatogroup.com](http://www.engineeringstevanatogroup.com)