
Instrument Business Outlook (IBO) chose Shimadzu’s HMV-G Series of Micro Vickers Hardness Testers as the recipient of its 2013 Silver Award for Industrial Design for Analytical Instruments(*) for their outstanding modern and bold design. With a curved frame softened by a bright color scheme, the HMV-G Series’ appearance expresses both technical sophistication and robustness and accessibility. The concept of the HMV-G Series’ initial design was based on feedback from customers who wanted to measure different sizes and types of samples. As a result, the HMV-G Series’ frame is not only a striking design feature but also offers a key user function. It has an expanded workspace depth and the opening at the center of the arc-type frame improves operability and visibility. This allows users to easily measure longer and larger-area samples.

Designing a compact instrument with this unique frame, while retaining the main performance features such as stability, was a significant challenge. The biggest difficulty was designing the frame for all kinds of samples to be tested easily and effectively. In order to make the HMV-G Series easy to use, these testers include such functions as automatic indentation-detection and automatic lens switching to avoid human measurement errors. They may also be used with a computer or LCD touch panel.

* IBO’s Industrial Design Awards are presented yearly and recognize recently introduced products whose physical appearance and features make a distinct and valuable impression, thus communicating the product’s functionality and value. The design elements of each system are integral to the product’s purpose and its relationship with the user, particularly in creating an inviting and intuitive user experience.

To be eligible for a Design Award, a product must have begun shipping between August 2012 and July 2013. Award candidates are chosen from the new products that IBO monitors through trade shows, trade publications, press releases and the Internet. Award winners are selected solely based on their industrial design, not on technical capabilities or performance. Criteria include innovation, aesthetics, functionality and features. IBO is a 12-page, subscription-based newsletter published twice monthly by Strategic Directions International, Inc. (SDi), a management and marketing research firm. SDi is the world’s leading source of information on the market for analytical and life science instrumentation and equipment for laboratory and on-site applications. For more information, visit www.strategic-directions.com.

Shimadzu has been collaborating with Analysis Center of Tsinghua University (hereinafter referred to as “ACTU”) since 2004 to cultivate young talent via an internship program, provide high-end mass spectrometry such as IT-TOF and MALDI-TOF, and offer technical advice and maintenance support in developing new applications. In addition, Shimadzu set up “the Scholarships for ACTU Shimadzu Excellent Graduate” in 2010 and expanded the scope of its scholarship in May 2013 by supporting “The Cross-Straits Tsinghua Chemistry Department PhD Students’ Forum/Shimadzu Scholarships Dissertation Assessment and Evaluation Meeting.” Nearly 130 Ph.D. students from both the mainland and Taiwan Tsinghua University participated. According to Professor Jin-Ming Lin, Director of ACTU, there are many benefits of the collaboration. For example,

Collaboration with Analysis Center of Tsinghua University in China

Shimadzu and ACTU co-issued some publications, one of which achieved the China Association for Instrumental Analysis (CAIA) Award. Secondly, the maintenance and daily use of the instruments provide good examples for the teaching staffs of other schools or faculties in Tsinghua University who are planning to purchase instruments. Thirdly, organizing lectures and training by Shimadzu engineers help students better understand the instruments. Finally, the collaborative research provides information for instrument application and improvement.

The recent achievement of this collaboration is as follows: 1) Liu W, Mao S, Wu J, Lin JM. “Development and Applications of Paper-Based Electrospray Ionization-Mass Spectrometry for Monitoring of Sequentially Generated Droplets” Analyst. 2013 Apr 7;138(7):2163-70