

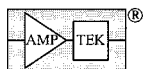
Multichannel Analyzer World's Smallest 'Pocket MCA'



Size: 6.5" x 2.8" x 0.8"
(165mm x 71mm x 20mm)
Weight: <300 grams (including batteries)

The MCA8000A is a full featured, low power Multichannel Analyzer intended to be used with a wide variety of detector systems.

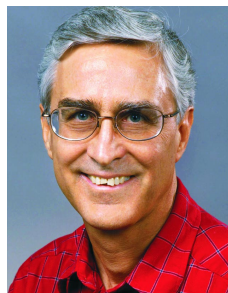
- 16k data channels
 - Stores up to 128 spectra
 - 24 hours of continuous data acquisition from two 1.5V AA batteries
 - Conversion time $\leq 5 \mu\text{s}$ ($\geq 200,000$ cps)
 - Two stage input analog pipeline
 - Differential nonlinearity $< \pm 0.6\%$
Integral nonlinearity $< \pm 0.02\%$
Sliding-scale linearization
 - Two peak detection modes:
First peak after threshold (nuclear spectroscopy)
Absolute peak after the threshold (particle counter calibration in clean rooms)
 - Two TTL compatible gates for coincidence & anticoincidence
 - Stand-alone data acquisition
 - Stored spectra protection via software security & serial ID number; date-time stamp
 - 115.2 kbps serial interface
- Free Windows & DOS software**



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Circle number 14 on Reader Service Card



HEFFNER

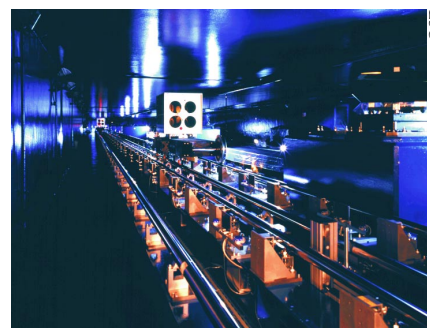
Heffner of Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. ISMS has branches in Asia, Europe, and North America. Topping the agenda in North America, Heffner adds, are upgrading the muon source at TRIUMF, Canada's particle accelerator in Vancouver, and exploring the feasibility of adding a muon facility to the Spallation Neutron Source under construction at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. —TF

New PACS®. A new edition of the Physics and Astronomy Classification Scheme® is now available from the American Institute of Physics. Introduced in the 1970s by AIP and updated every two years, PACS is used to categorize physics and astronomy literature—from AIP, the American Physical Society, and many other publishers—for journal subject indexes, catalogs, and online bibliographic databases. In the new PACS, for example, papers related to Bose-Einstein condensates, which were previously lumped to-

gether, are subdivided into six categories. This change, says Safia Hameed, who manages AIP's physics classification section, reflects the needs of a growing area of research. Since PACS was put on the Web a few years ago, she adds, the number of publications using it has swelled. The 2003 PACS can be accessed online at <http://www.aip.org/pacs/>. Print copies may be obtained free of charge by sending a request to shameed@aip.org. —TF

ment of accelerator-based science facilities at which future muon sources could be built, as well as to better coordinate the capabilities of existing muon sources," says ISMS President Robert

VLT reaches milestone. Light beams from the four 8.2-meter primary telescopes that make up the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (VLT) at the Paranal Observatory in Atacama, Chile, have been successfully combined in pairs to create interferometric fringes. Three 1.8-meter "outrigger" telescopes will be added to



A LIGHT-FUNNELING PIPE for the VLT.

the VLT by 2005. Next year, the first adaptive optics will be installed and will increase the sensitivity by a factor of almost 100. —PKG ■

WEB WATCH

<http://zircon.geology.union.edu/kamchatka/tanking>

Last year, John Garver of Union College in Schenectady, New York, organized a field trip to study the geology of Russia's remote and roadless Kamchatka peninsula. To reach his destination—the Srendiny range in the south of the peninsula—he and his team set forth in a modified ex-Red Army tank. Garver recounts his experiences in *Tanking in Kamchatka*, which originally appeared in *Union College Magazine*.



<http://www.beyonddiscovery.org>

The often-unanticipated benefits of basic research form the subject of *Beyond Discovery™*, a collection of illustrated essays from the National Academy of Sciences. Among the topics covered, which are available in Chinese and Spanish translations, are wavelets, vitamin D, and the global positioning system.



<http://www.mentornet.net>

With the aim of increasing the number of women in science and engineering, the **MentorNet** Web site pairs students with mentors. Online for five years, MentorNet currently connects about 3000 students with 3000 mentors.

To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please e-mail us at ptwww@aip.org.

Compiled by CHARLES DAY