ISOMASS NEWS

ISOMASS SCIENTIFIC INC.

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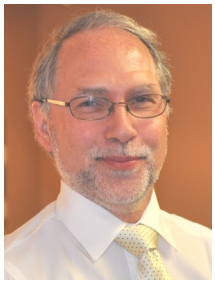
Introduction



Peter Stow

Hello, and welcome to the latest Isomass newsletter. For those who are not familiar with Isomass Scientific, we are Canada's largest independent supplier of mass spectrometers, supplies and consumables. Isomass was started nearly 30 years ago by Nik Binder who ran a stable isotope mass spectrometer in the Agriculture department at the University of Saskatchewan. He found he had an ability to repair the instruments. He started to help other laboratories across Canada with similar instruments when they needed service or repair, and Isomass was born.

My name is Peter Stow and I am the CEO of Isomass. I've been with Isomass since 1994, first as the service engineer, then in sales, and now running the company.

Nik joined us at the Isomass open house during the recent ASITA Workshop in Calgary. Nik started ASITA (formerly CF-IRMS) in 1994 as a vehicle to publicize the, then emerging, technique of Continuous Flow – Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry. This workshop is now run by the users and moves around the different universities in Canada. Continuous Flow is now the primary mode of operation of most stable isotope mass spectrometers. In the intervening years Isomass has grown to 15 employees based across Canada. This includes 6 engineers in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec. Our head office is in Calgary and we stock a wide range of spares and consumables. Orders for in-stock spares and consumables received by 3 pm MST will be shipped out the same day.

We have an article showcasing two new products for Isomass: Analab corrosive resistant hotplates and the Celestron USB powered microscope. Please contact Alyisha or Carolyne in our inside sales department for further information on these products. Full contact details are given on page 2.

Along with the stable isotope mass spectrometers we provide a wide range of magnetic sector mass spectrometers from Thermo Scientific; elemental analyzers from Costech Analytical and lasers from Photon Machines. To support these instruments we are agents for Scientific Instruments Services and Elemental Microanalysis spares and consumables. Please see our website for a full description of the products we supply.

ASITA 2013 - Calgary, Alberta

Nik Binder

The first continuous flow instruments were introduced to the scientific community in 1985. Although a few instruments were sold and installed in Canada at that time, the scientific community was still not sure if this technology was for their application. For a year the concept of holding a continuous flow workshop in Canada was forming in my mind. However, it was not until Isomass Scientific became the Canadian Agent for Thermo Finnigan that the final details came together.

The key ingredients for making the workshop a success were to invite all IRMS instrument manufacturers to attend and to focus on providing hands-on experience by having instruments on-site and having technically experienced people presenting information on the instrumentation and their applications. Thermo Finnigan embraced the workshop concept and fully supported the workshop by supplying an instrument as well as an instrument design specialist.

The first CF-IRMS Workshop was held in 1994 at Agriculture Canada in Lethbridge, Alberta. In the years since that first workshop manufacturers have introduced various instrument models and accessories with the ability to analyze for 13C, 15N, SO2, HD and 18O isotopes in bulk and volatile samples by combustion or pyrolysis techniques. The number of installations in Canada, and the world, has increased significantly since 1994. In fact, the majority of instruments sold and installed now are with continuous flow accessories. Dual inlet instruments sold are a distant second.

In 2011 the name of the workshop was changed to ASITA - Advances in Stable Isotope Techniques and Applications, in order to include applications in stable isotope techniques beyond continuous flow capabilities alone. In 2013, nineteen years after the first workshop in Lethbridge, the workshop has returned to Alberta. This time to Calgary.

Isomass Wine & Cheese Party - June 3/13

Guests and staff

Paul Eby

There was an air of excitement as staff members at the Isomass Calgary office prepared for the buses to arrive from the University of Calgary carrying ASITA Workshop attendees. The food and beverages were invitingly displayed, awaiting our special guests.

Peter Stow, CEO, greeted the guests at the door, welcoming them in from the rain into the Isomass workspace. The guests were introduced to staff members and invited to partake of the wine, beer, cheese, and much, much, more!

The Wine and Cheese party was a great opportunity for Calgary staff members to meet customers, old and new. It provided an opportunity to put faces to the voices on the phone that make up our day-to-day business relationships. It was also a chance for our customers to mingle with other industry guests and to check out the new product displays. Special guests, Chuck Douthitt, Isotope Ratio Specialist from Thermo Fisher Scientific, and Jon Davis, Technical Manager from Elemental Microanalysis, two of our major suppliers, were on hand to meet the guests and answer any questions about their products. Everyone agreed it was a great evening and we look forward to hosting similar events at Isomass whenever the opportunity arises. We couldn't have done it without our great guests and we thank them all for joining us.

New Products

Analab hotplates

Celestron Microscope

Isomass is always looking to diversify our current product lines with the most innovative instruments, cost effective accessories and consumables. This year we are excited to introduce a new member to the Isomass supplier family, Analab. With a strong reputation for quality, Analab equipment is used around the globe and is now conveniently available right here in Canada. Analab's product line includes a vast array of sample preparation products for physical and elemental analysis. Including, but not limited to, ICP-OES, ICP-MS, and wet chemistry applications. During the ASITA evening hosted at the Isomass offices, we introduced to those in attendance Analab's corrosive resistant hotplate. Made of special graphite, the temperature homogeneity between each sample is close to perfection. Wherever you place your sample, the temperature is homogenous over 99% of the hot plate (measurements have been taken up to 5mm away from the edge of the plate). Temperatures are stable and accurately regulated (+/- 2°C) by a programmable or non-programmable regulator with, or without, in situ probe capabilities.

Another exciting new product that we've been having some fun with is the Celestron Handheld Digital Microscope from Scientific Instrument Services. The evening at Isomass saw our lucky prize winner, Paul Eby (pictured above), of Alberta Innovates, take home his very own! A breakthrough in microscope design, the Celestron has a digital camera and LED illuminator built into its small, compact package, it only weighs 4oz! The user can capture and view images, snapshots or video, at 10x to 40x and 150x digital power on their PC or laptop computer with a simple USB 2.0 connection cable. This little guy is ideal for use with source cleaning, valve seat refurbishment and ceramic cleaning, just to name a few. Isomass is currently processing filament repairs with the Celestron, as broken filament wires and ceramic connections are clearly displayed and easily captured with the digital zoom options the Celestron offers its user.

With these exciting new additions, Isomass welcomes your product enquiries and would be pleased to provide any information on the wide range of other Analab and Scientific Instrument Services products available in North America. Please send your enquiries to sales@isomass.com or give us a call toll free at 1-800-363-7823.

Isomass Calgary Staff

L-R Back Row: Devin Scott, Dave Ashwell, Tony Cade and Sue McAuley L-R Front Row: Charlene Ashby, Linda Gallagher, Peter Stow, Alyisha Thomson, Trudy Binder and Carolyne Sewell

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