

# Innovations in sample preparation and hardness testing

AT Control 2017, held in May in Stuttgart, Germany, Buehler ITW Test & Measurement presented products from its extensive portfolio of equipment and consumables for hardness testing, covering all stages from sample preparation to actual hardness measurement.

A major point of interest was the new IsoMet™ High Speed bench-top precision cutters. Equipped with abrasive or diamond blades, the cutters section virtually any material, from brittle or ductile metals, through composites, ceramics and plastics, to electronic components and biomaterials. Their features are high efficiency, a powerful motor and a consistent, precise and repeatable cutting action, even for delicate samples.

The SmartCut™ automatic cutter feed minimises damage to the sample and to the cutter, resulting in an optimised sectioning process for all materials. Users also benefit from a clearly structured interface and quick sample fastening. IsoMet™ High Speed models are therefore particularly suited



to busy laboratories requiring high quality standards.

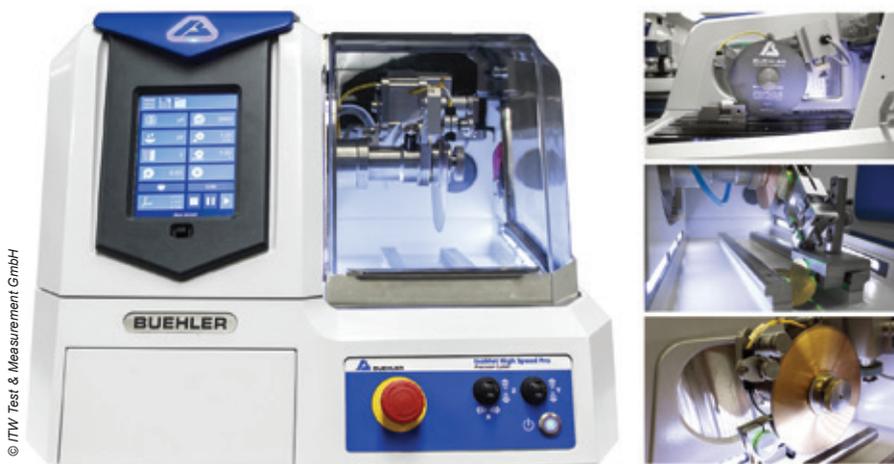
Further exhibits included the ergonomically optimised Series VH1100 hardness testers, available with varying levels of automation, and the DiaMet™ universal hardness testing software. Like the Series VH1100, the Wilson® VH3300 micro-hardness testers provide for high degrees of automation.

In addition, Buehler showcased its fast and reliable SimpliMet™ 4000 mounting press for mounting of samples prior to grinding and polishing, designed specifically for demanding industrial applications.

The EpoKwick™ FC mounting compound, developed by Buehler to provide maximum quality in the preparation of materialographic samples, cures within just two hours without needing a furnace, ensuring that mounted samples are available for the next step in the process in the shortest possible time.

Buehler's product range covers a variety of sectioning and precision sectioning machines adapted to specific applications, mounting presses with the associated epoxy and acrylic mounting compounds, grinding and polishing machines, and Rockwell, Vickers/Knoop, Brinell and universal hardness testing systems.

**Buehler ITW Test & Measurement GmbH** – Germany  
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One of the highlights was the IsoMet™ High Speed bench-top precision cutter

## Solution for tube, hose and pipe cleaning

NEW tubes are often dirtier than might be expected, and can cause contamination of the product circulating in them as well as the malfunction of the connected components. In regular maintenance, dirty tubes represent a serious problem in the industry: they are the cause of

system inefficiency and sudden halts in production.

Alka provides a tube-cleaning solution that operates by shooting a special projectile with compressed air. The system can be applied to tubes measuring in internal diameter from 2mm up to a few

hundred, and lengths of 10 to 1,000m (depending on air capacity), and can also be applied in the presence of 90° curves, 'T' or 'Y' couplings or ball valves.

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