



# Fraunhofer IPM

FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR PHYSICAL MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUES IPM



1 Inspection of coated parts for aircraft engines.

2 Coating control in painting processes.

## LAYER CONTROL WITH TERAHERTZ TECHNIQUES

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[www.ipm.fraunhofer.de/en/terahertz](http://www.ipm.fraunhofer.de/en/terahertz)



[www.TeraTec.org/en](http://www.TeraTec.org/en)

Similar to all other electromagnetic waves, terahertz waves are also partially reflected at any interface where there is a sudden change in refractive index. This effect can be employed to determine layer thickness using terahertz waves. Simultaneously, the good transmission characteristics of terahertz waves through materials which are opaque in the visible area can be exploited.

### The system

- Robust design with long-term stability
- Fiber-coupled terahertz systems
- Simple integration of compact measurement modules into existing production and quality systems
- User-friendly operator and analysis interface

### Applications

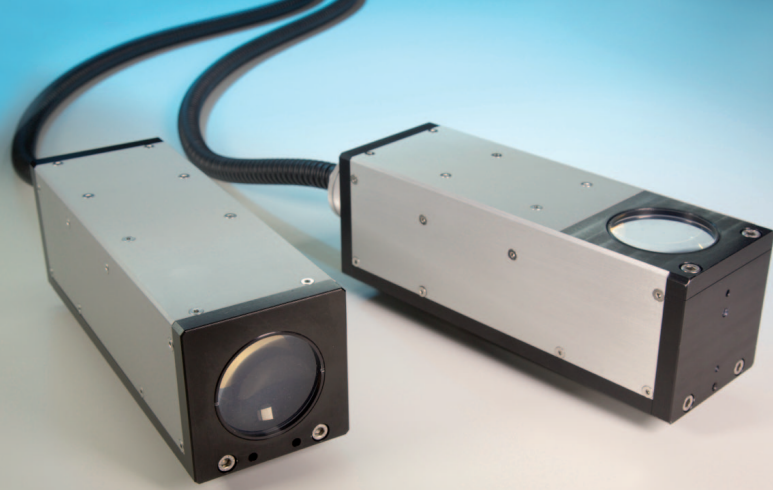
- **Paint coating:** Single or multi-layer, wet or dry
- **Ceramic coatings:** PVD or thermally sprayed
- **Plastic layers:** soft or solid
- **Component thickness:** single layer or multi-layer

### The benefits

- **Controlling processes:** detecting and correcting deviations in an early stage
- **Increasing quality:** avoiding faulty coatings and component thicknesses
- **Saving material:** reduce safety margins



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### System properties

- contact-free and non-destructive measurement of layer systems
- Resolution of multilayer systems
- Measuring range from 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to several mm, depending on the material
- Accuracy of up to 1  $\mu\text{m}$
- Measuring time below 1 sec.

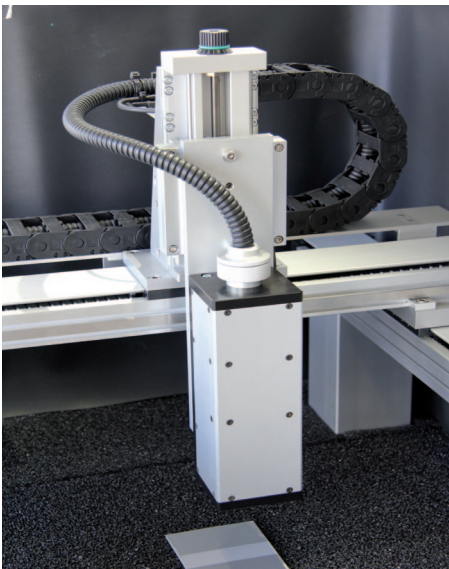
### Simple calibration

- Use of reference samples

### Radiation protection

- Terahertz waves are harmless to health

Contact-free and non-destructive adjustable working distance between 50 and 200 mm.



### Our offer

- Consultation: on technology and application aspects
- Initial tests: free measurements in our application lab
- Feasibility studies: technically and economically
- Contract measurement: for industry and research
- Development: from single components to tailor-made complete systems
- Equipment rent: for limited-period tasks
- Measurements on customer's site: with mobile systems on any large objects

### Complex shaped parts

Measurements possible on curved surfaces, cases, and edges.



3 Supply unit of the fiber-coupled terahertz system.

4 Terahertz transceiver modules.

Measurement early on in the process  
Suitable for wet, soft or sticky layers.



### Various materials

Measurements of layer thickness on metal, plastic, CFK, glass or ceramics.

