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Analytik reports on the use of the CPS Instruments Disc Centrifuge system for nanoparticle characterisation at the National Physical Laboratory.

Cambridge, UK, 6th November 2012: Analytik, leading suppliers of innovative analytical instrumentation, report on the use of the CPS Instruments Disc Centrifuge in the Surface and Nanoanalysis group at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, UK.

The Surface and Nanoanalysis research group studies the physical and chemical properties of surfaces and nanomaterials, including biological samples and electronic components. NPL supplies a range of measurement services, reference materials, and software, which underpin quantitative surface analysis. Among the measurement services offered is nanoparticle sizing for which a suite of particle sizing techniques are employed.

One of the techniques used is Differential Centrifugal Sedimentation or DCS. DCS is used to obtain ultra-high resolution size distributions of particles in the nano- and micron-range. The size range of the particles that can be analysed by DCS depends on the density of their constituent materials.

Group member Nia Bell describes how she uses DCS. "We have used DCS to size particles and check for aggregation. We have also combined the density dependent information from DCS to density independent information from other techniques to investigate particle porosity and the functionalisation of particle surfaces. I have looked at silica and gold particles while other members of the group have looked at cerium oxide, titanium dioxide and zinc oxide particles amongst others."

Bell then continued to describe the density measurements in more detail: "DCS was used to investigate the adsorption of protein on gold nanoparticles. With increasing protein shell thickness the effective density of the particles decreased. For accurate interpretation of the DCS data this variable effective density had to be considered. Either the density of the shell was assumed to be equal to some constant value and the shell thickness extracted from the DCS data, or the shell thickness was assumed to be that measured using a density independent technique and DCS used to calculate the density of the shell. From the density and thickness of the protein shell, the amount of protein adsorbed could be estimated."

Other particle sizing techniques used in the laboratory include Dynamic Light Scattering, DLS, and Nanoparticle Tracking Analysis, NTA. Bell explains how they are used: "In the past DLS was the standard technique for most solution based particle sizing measurements, however, with the advent of DCS and NTA we are able to tailor our measurements better to individual samples. DCS is normally at least as quick as NTA and DLS so it is used routinely."

The CPS Instrument performs nanoparticle size analysis utilising the Differential Centrifugal Sedimentation method. This offers the unique ability to resolve very close multimodal particle distributions and to distinguish extremely small shifts in particle size. Rather than using a predictive algorithm, the instrument physically separates the nanoparticles and then measures them as they pass a light source detector and thus provides full characterisation in real time. To find out more about CPS nanoparticle size characterisation solutions, visit: <http://www.analytik.co.uk/>

Attachment



NPL's Nia Bell with the CPS disk centrifuge system for nanoparticle size characterisation.

For a high resolution copy of the image, either right click to download or contact Jezz Leckenby at Talking Science.

About...Analytik are leading suppliers of innovative analytical instrumentation to the UK and Ireland. Delivering cutting-edge solutions from global technology providers, coupled with responsive service and flexibility has enabled Analytik to build an impressive customer base since forming in 2003. Analytik's partners include Agilent Technologies, ASD Inc, DeltaNu, Ocean Optics, CAMO, CPS Instruments and Videometer. Solutions include portable and handheld spectrometers (FTIR, NIR & Raman), spectral imaging systems, light measurement systems and nanoparticle size analysers.

About...the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is one of the UK's leading science facilities and research centres. It is a world-leading centre of excellence in developing and applying the most accurate standards, science and technology available. NPL occupies a unique position as the UK's National Measurement Institute and sits at the intersection between scientific discovery and real world application. Its expertise and original research have underpinned quality of life, innovation and competitiveness for UK citizens and business for more than a century. <http://www.npl.co.uk/advanced-materials/materials-areas/nanomaterials/sem-tem-dls-zeta-potential>.

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