



Overview

Thales Optem Inc. specializes in the design, development and manufacture of advanced micro-optical components and systems for machine vision, inspection and research. It is a key player in Greater Rochester's photonics cluster, helping to enhance the region's status as the leading optics center in the world.

Located in Fairport, Thales Optem's 41,000-square-foot facility houses corporate offices, a precision optical assembly operation, a clean room, an optics research lab, and a full-service machine shop.



Thales Optem's facility in Fairport

Thales Optem currently employs 48 people including sales and market managers in California, the UK and the Far East. The company is led by President and CEO José Suro.

In December 2002, Thales Optem obtained ISO 9001:2000 certification, having implemented the quality systems to accomplish this goal in less than a year. With this achievement, Thales Optem was among the first US manufacturing companies to operate under the latest edition of the ISO standard.

History

Founded as Amarel Precision Instruments in 1980, the Optem International division was established in 1984 to leverage the worldwide industrial imaging market. In 1996, Amarel was acquired by Singapore-based Avimo Group Ltd., which was in turn acquired by multi-national defense conglomerate Thales Group in 2001.

Thales, headquartered in Paris, is a global electronics company serving the aerospace, defense, and information technology markets worldwide. It has operations in more than 30 countries and has more than 63,000 employees.

Situation Analysis

Thales Optem standard products fulfill vision requirements for metrology, inspection and R&D functions within the semiconductor, micro-electronics, biomedical, and other high-tech manufacturing fields, as well as research and teaching function within life-science research and education. Thales Optem also manufactures a line of Digital Transfer Scopes utilized for aerial photo change analysis and mapping in the resource management, forestry, agricultural and land planning fields.

Thales Optem unveiled its OptiGrid Structured-Light Imaging System to build and expand its business in the life sciences and research and development markets. As part of the Thales Group, Thales Optem is exploring synergies with its sister companies to penetrate the U. S. defense market.

In addition to a broad line of standard products, Thales Optem has also carved a niche as a custom optical solutions provider. Capabilities include engineering, development, rapid prototyping and contract manufacturing for an almost infinite range of uses. Their state-of-the-art facility offers ample room for fast expansion and offers provisions for dedicated production lines.

Thales Optem's optical systems continue to meet the ever-changing needs of its customers. Looking forward, Thales Optem is growing its internal capabilities and capacities to better anticipate and fulfill the imaging needs of tomorrow.

Conclusion

Located just outside of Rochester, NY, Thales Optem specializes in the design, development and manufacture of specialty optical systems for machine vision, automated inspection and R&D applications within the high-tech manufacturing, semiconductor, life science, metrology, forensic, government, academia and research arenas. Thales Optem's Standard product offering includes:

- Optem™ Fixed-Magnification and Zoom Optical Systems
- Optem™ Camera-to-Microscope Video Couplers
- Optem™ Infinity Corrected Objectives
- A-Zoom2™ High-Throughput Analytical Microscopes
- LampLink2™ Light Sources
- OptiGrid™ Structured Light Imaging System
- DTS™ Photo/GIS Workstations

Thales Optem also prides itself on offering a wide range of customers with accessible and affordable custom development, engineering, and manufacturing from prototype through production. Thales Optem continues to innovate and evolve to meet the ever-changing demands of machine vision, inspection, R&D, and metrology customers.

Thales Optem (www.thales-optem.com) is a key player in Greater Rochester's leading optics and imaging cluster. With 48 employees, it is the largest U.S. operation for the French-based Thales High Tech Optics Group.

Economic developers in the Rochester region are working to promote the area's strengths and leadership in the optics and imaging industries. By working with companies such as Thales Optem, local leaders can enhance and better market Rochester's position as the world's optics center.