

iStar sCMOS

Fast gated sCMOS solutions

Ultrafast Platform for Nanosecond Time-resolved Imaging and Spectroscopy



Key Specifications

- 5.5 megapixel sCMOS
- 50 fps full frame
- High dynamic range at full speed
- Integrated triple output DDG
- Photocathode QE up to 50%
- Integrate-On-Chip gating up to 500 kHz
- USB 3.0 interface

Key Applications

- 🗸 Plasma studies
- / Time-resolved Fluorescence / Photoluminescence
- Flow analysis / Combustion /
 PLIF imaging
- Hyperspectral imaging

NEW On-head spectroscopy and multi-track modes

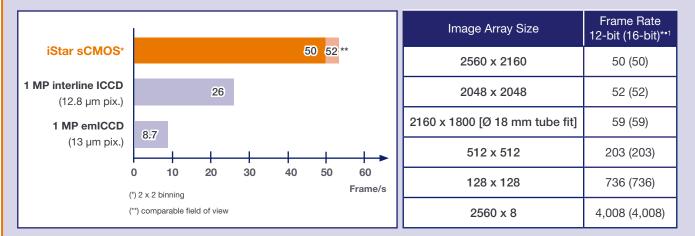
iStar sCMOS – Ultrafast acquisition speeds

Superior high-speed acquisition performance



- ✓ 12-bit high-speed mode
- 2 times faster than the closest interline-based competitor at an equivalent field-of-view (and over 5 times faster with ROI)

Market leading acquisition rates...



Delivers:

- Faster characterisation of transient plasma, fluorescence or absorption behaviours
- NEW Faster characterization of spectroscopic phenomena and multi point experiment studies (multi-track)
- Faster Echellogram image capture for broadband LIBS-based applications

Flow Analysis / Combustion

iStar sCMOS comfortably accommodates the 15 Hz imaging requirement of typical PLIF setups with extremely low noise floor and excellent dynamic range, nanosecond snapshots of the flame and high background light rejection.

Optical inter-frame down to 200 ns for time-gated PIV setups with a wide range of velocities.

Plasma Imaging

The high frame rate and < 2 ns gating of the iStar sCMOS allow faster reconstruction of plasma dynamics with extremely high temporal resolution.

NEW Hyperspectral Imaging & multitrack spectroscopy

On-head FPGA functions can discriminate up to 256 individual channels (e.g. multi-leg fibre optic) with no acquisition rate sacrifice compared to CCDs.

GPU Express for real time data processing.

Features & Benefits

Feature Benefit

Sustainable rate at full field-of-view, out-performs CCD and interline-based ns gated ICCDs with 50 frames/s acquisition rates equivalent field-of-view. Large field of view, access more of the useful active area of Ø18 mm image intensifiers without the 16.6 x 14.0 mm sensor matrix need for optical tapers. Highest dynamic range even at the fastest frame rates, up to 5 times better performance than the 2.4 e⁻ read noise closest interline-based competitor 12-bit and 16-bit modes 12-bit mode for smaller file size and absolute fastest frame rates, 16-bit for full dynamic range. On-head intelligence to preserve dynamic range in extensive pixel binning, or high intensity pixel Up to 32-bit data transmission to PC binning scenarios. Ideal for PIV-type applications requiring fast dual images snapshots with high background rejection or supersonic flow analysis. Optical inter-frame down to 300 ns The true Global Shutter mode facilitates an optical inter-frame gap down to 100 ns, although the intensifier phosphor decay time is the limiting factor. The decay time of a fast P46 phosphor is typically 200 ns (@ 10% intensity). Efficiently minimizes dark current noise for acquisitions requiring longer sensor exposure time, e.g. TE cooling down to 0°C integrate-on-chip mode. High QE Gen 2 & 3 image intensifiers Superior photon capture, with peak QE up to 50% and spectral coverage from 120 to 1,100 nm. True optical gating < 2 ns Billionth of a second time-resolution for accurate transient phenomena study. Low jitter, on-board Digital Delay Generator Highest gating timing accuracy with lowest propagation delay. Software controlled 3x triggering (DDG[™]) outputs with 10 ps setup accuracy for complex experiment integration. 500 kHz sustained photocathode gating Maximizes signal-to-noise ratio in high repetition rate pulse laser-based applications. (3.3 MHz Burst Mode) Burst mode allows gate pulse separation down to 300 ns for time-resolved PIV mode. Photocathode EBI minimization Dry gas purge interface for further efficient EBI reduction. Intelligent and accurate MCP gating for better than 1:10⁸ shuttering efficiency in the UV Intelligate™ (Gen 2 image intensifier). Super-fast data transfer at 40 fps full frame with a plug-and-play, user-friendly interface - optical USB 3.0 interface extenders available for operation up to 100 m. **GPU Express** Simplify and optimize data transfers from camera to Graphical Processing Unit (GPU) card to facilitate accelerated GPU processing as part of the acquisition pipeline. Ease of operation in EPICS software-based facilities such as partner particle accelerators and Integrated in EPICS other large scientific experiments. 2 year warranty Reliability and guaranteed performance over time.

NEW Spectroscopy Modes

On-head asymmetric binning and multi-track	On-board intelligence delivering Spectroscopists-friendly spectra and multi-track data prior to transfer through USB interface. Upfront data size reduction and easier user data processing.
Selectable bit-depth up to 32-bit	Preserve dynamic range in extensive on-head binning scenarios. User-selectable data bit depth to be transmitted over the camera interface, up to 32-bit.

Technical Specifications^{*2}

Sensor type	Front-Illuminated Scientific	CMOS
Sensor matrix	2560 x 2160 pixels (W x H), 6.5 µ Ø18 mm intensifier 1:1 coupler	025 mm intensifier 1:1 coupler
Sensor size	16.6 x 14.0 mm 21.8 mm diagonal	
Pixel well depth (e ⁻)	30,000	
Read noise (e ⁻) median [rms] at available pixel readout rates* ³	@ 200 MHz 2.3 [2.5] @ 560 MHz 2.4 [2.6]	
Minimum cooling temperature⁴ [dark current, e⁻ /pixel/s] air cooled liquid cooled	Ø18 mm photocathode 0°C [0.18] 0°C [0.18]	Ø25 mm photocathode 0°C [0.18] 0°C [0.18]
Sensor linearity (% maximum)*5	Better than 99.8%	
Data range	12-bit (fastest speed) and 16-bit (maxim	um dynamic range)
Pixel binning	On-head, pre-defined options 2x2, 4x4 or fl	exible configuration setup
Region of Interest	Minimum channel height of	8 rows
Region of Interest Interface option	Minimum channel height of USB 3.0	8 rows

Camera and Internal Digital Delay Generator (DDG) Inputs/Outputs

Gate pulse delay & width	Adjustable from 0 ns to 10 s in 10 ps steps				
Trigger Outputs					
Output A, B and C	+5 V CMOS level with 50 Ω source impedance; can drive 5 V into a non-terminating load or 2.5V into 50 Ω load; output synchronized triggers for auxiliary equipment, e.g. lasers, flash lamps, National Instrument [™] hardware Individual delays control from 0 ns to 10 s in 10 ps steps Configurable Polarity				
Fire	5 V CMOS level reference signal for beginning and end of individual sensor exposure				
Arm monitor	5 V CMOS level reference signal to indicate when system is ready to accept external triggers. Signal goes high when system is ready to accept external triggers (after a readout has finished or sooner if in overlap mode) and goes low when the exposure is finished				
Gate & output A, B and C jitter	35 ps rms (relative to external trigger or to each other)				
	Trigger Inputs				
External trigger	Trigger input for sensor and Digital Delay Generator Up to 500 kHz for Integrate-On-Chip mode				
Direct gate	TTL input for exact external control of photocathode width and timing with smallest insertion delay				
	Additional Controls				
Gate monitoring	AC coupling from photocathode to monitor exact photocathode on/off switching and timings				
Insertion delay	< 19 ns in direct gate operation				

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Frame rate table - 12-bit (16-bit)

Array Size (W x H)	Frame Rate*
2560 x 2160	50 (50)
2048 x 2048	52 (52)
1920 x 1080	98 (98)
512 x 512	203 (203)
128 x 128	736 (736)
2560 x 8	4,008 (4,008)

* 2 x 2 binning.



Multi-track Mode Vertically binned tracks 12-bit & 16-bit

Number of tracks (centred vertically)	Track height (h, pixels)	Tracks separation (d, pixels)	Frame Rate
2	12	12	1,967
2	20	20	1,370
2	154	77	265
20	12	12	222
20	20	20	135
50	12	12	89
50	20	20	54
256	8	0	52

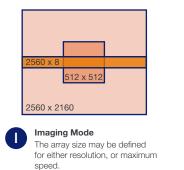
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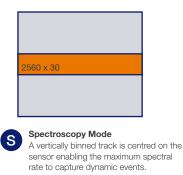
Spectroscopy Mode Vertically binned tracks 12-bit & 16-bit

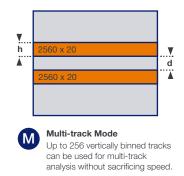
Array Size (W x H)	Frame Rate
any x 8	4,008
any x 12	3,491
any x 16	3,092
any x 31	2,122
any x 77	1,093
any x 100	909
any x 128	736
any x 154	618
any x 462	224
any x 512	203
any x 1040	102
any x 1080	98
any x 2048	52

How the sCMOS sensor is used in the different modes

The diagrams below illustrate how the sCMOS sensor array is used for the different modes:







GPU Express



The Andor GPU Express library has been created to simplify and optimize data transfers from camera to a CUDAenabled NVidia Graphical Processing Unit (GPU) card to facilitate accelerated GPU processing as part of the acquisition pipeline. GPU Express integrates easily with SDK3 for Windows, providing a user-friendly but powerful solution for management of high bandwidth data flow challenges.

- Enhanced convenience, afforded by simple, optimized GPU data management.
- Optimal data throughput.
- Superb, easily accessible documentation and examples.

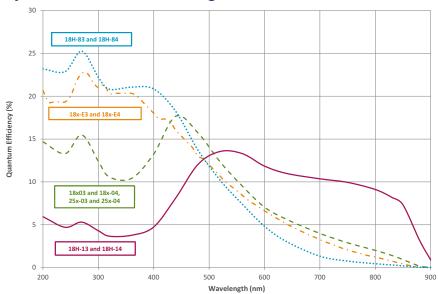
Specifications: Gen 2 image intensifiers^{*}

Photocathode model	18*-03 (P43) 18*-04 (P46)	18*-05 ⁺	18H-13 (P43) 18H-14 (P46)	18H-83 (P43) 18H-84 (P46)	18*-E3 (P43)* ⁶ 18*-E4 (P46)* ⁶	25*-03 (P43) 25*-04 (P46)
Useful aperture	Ø18 mm (Ø25 mm available- contact Andor for information)			Ø18 mm only		Ø25 mm
Input window	Quartz	MgF ₂	Quartz	Quartz	Quartz	Quartz
Photocathode type	W-AGT	W-AGT	WR	UW	WE-AGT	W-AGT
Minimum guaranteed QE at room temperature *7	13.5%	11%	7%	20%	15%	14%
Typical peak QE at room temperature •7	>18%	>15%	>13.5%	>25%	>22%	>16%
Wavelength range	180 - 850 nm	120 - 850 nm	180 - 920 nm	180 - 850 nm	180 - 850 nm	180 - 850 nm
Phosphor type [decay time to 10%] Standard Optional**			P43 [2 ms] P46 [200 ns]			
Image intensifier resolution limit * ⁸ P43 (Standard) P46 (Optional)	25 μm 30 μm [-04 model]	25 μm 30 μm	25 μm 30 μm [-14 model]	25 μm 30 μm [-84 model]	25 μm 30 μm [-E4 model]	35 μm 40 μm [-04 model]
Minimum optical gate width (ns) ^{+9, 10} U (Ultrafast) F (Fast) H (High QE)	< 2 < 5 -	< 5 < 10 -	- - < 50	- - < 100	< 2 < 5 -	< 3 < 7 -
Maximum relative gain *11	> 1000 (P43) > 500 (P46)	> 1000	>850 (P43) >400 (P46)	>500 (P43) >250 (P46)	>300 (P43) >150 (P46)	>1000 (P43) >500 (P46)
Maximum photocathode repetition rate (with Intelligate™ OFF)	500 kHz (continuous)					
Maximum photocathode repetition rate (with Intelligate™ ON)	5 kHz (continuous)					
Equivalent Background Illuminance (EBI)	< 0.2 photoe ⁻ /pix/sec < 0.4 photoe ⁻ / pix/sec < 0.2 photoe ⁻ /pix/sec				;	

* Substitute with appropriate gate width option, e.g. 18*-03 (please refer to page 9 for detailed ordering information)

[†]Available with VUV-compatible spectrograph interface

Quantum Efficiency Curves for Gen 2 Image Intensifiers^{•7}



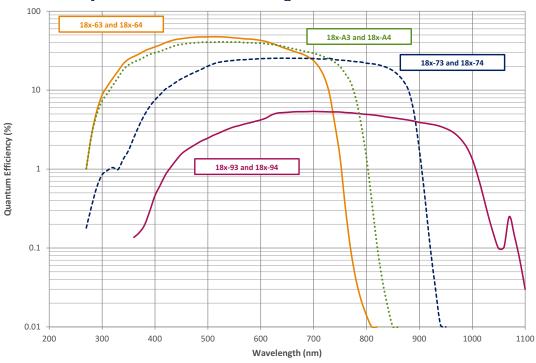
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Specifications: Gen 3 image intensifiers^{*}

Photocathode model	18*-63 (P43) 18*-64 (P46)	18*-73 (P43) 18*-74 (P46)	18*-93 (P43) 18*-94 (P46)	18*-A3 (P43) 18*-A4 (P46)		
Useful aperture	Ø18 mm (Ø25 mm options also available except -93 model- contact Andor for information)					
Input window	Glass	Glass	Glass	Glass		
Photocathode type	HVS	VIH	NIR	EVS		
Minimum guaranteed QE at room temperature *7	38%	23%	0.10%	35%		
Typical peak QE at room temperature *7	> 50%	> 30%	> 5%	> 40%		
Wavelength range	280 - 760 nm	280 - 910 nm	380 - 1090 nm	280 - 810 nm		
Phosphor type [decay time to 10%] Standard Optional**	P43 [2 ms] P46 [200 ns]					
Image intensifier resolution limit * ⁸ P43 (Standard) P46 (Optional)	30 μm 35 μm [-64 model]	30 μm 35 μm [-74 model]	30 μm 35 μm [-94 model]	30 μm 35 μm [-A4 model]		
Minimum optical gate width (ns) * ¹⁰ U (Ultrafast) F (Fast)	< 2 < 5	< 2 < 5	< 3 < 5	< 2 < 5		
Maximum relative gain *11		> 200 > 100				
Maximum photocathode repetition rate (with Intelligate™ OFF)	500 kHz (continuous)					
Maximum photocathode repetition rate (with Intelligate™ ON)	5 kHz (continuous)					
Equivalent Background Illuminance (EBI)	< 0.1 photoe /pix/sec	< 0.3 photoe /pix/sec	< 2 photoe /pix/sec	< 0.2 photoe ⁻ /pix/sec		

* Substitute with appropriate gate width option, e.g. 18*-63 (please refer to page 9 for detailed ordering information)

Quantum Efficiency Curves for Gen 3 Image Intensifiers⁻⁷

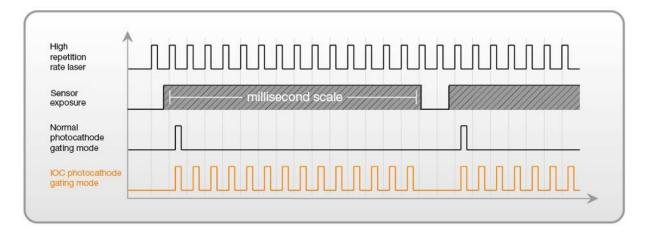


Intelligent gating modes

Integrate-On-Chip: 500,000 times more signal per 1 sec sensor exposure

The iStar's Integrate-On-Chip (IOC) mode enables accumulation of useful signal from laser-induced phenomena at frequencies up to 500 kHz, providing greatly improved signal-to-noise, and minimising experiment time. The latter greatly benefits setups where photobleaching-sensitive biological samples are probed. This translates into the possibility to accumulate 500,000 times more signal per 1 second sensor exposure time.

Integrate-On-Chip is fully software-configurable and can be used through extensive kinetic series involving up to 1,000 pre-programmed incremental delays from laser trigger for unrivalled combination of sensitivity and ultra-precise transient phenomena analysis.

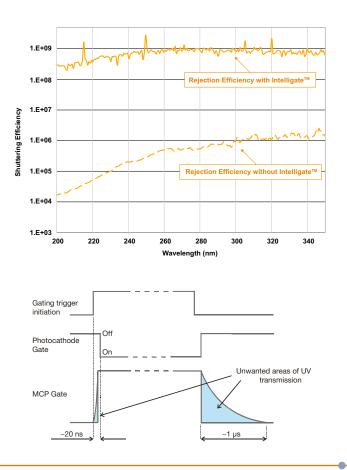


Intelligate[™]: Superior gating in the UV-VUV region

One of the key functions of an image intensifier is to provide high optical shuttering (ON/OFF) ratio. By switching photocathode voltage to a higher or lower level relative to the MCP voltage, photo-electrons can be either directed towards or repelled from the MCP to avoid detection. ON/OFF values of 1:10⁸ are typically measured for Visible/NIR incident light on the photocathode.

However photocathode "leakage" becomes more pronounced in the UV-VUV region (< 300 nm), where more energetic photons have a greater probability to go through the photocathode turned "OFF", reach the MCP to generate an electron that can be detected. This can lead to shuttering efficiency as low as $1:10^4$.

Andor's exclusive Intelligate[™] simultaneously gates the photocathode and the MCP. The ultra fast rising edge of the MCP gate pulse switches on the correct potential in a nanosecond timeframe, coinciding precisely with the photocathode gating pulse. This enables ON/OFF ratios as high as 10⁸ in the UV-VUV region.



Creating the optimum product for you



ISTAR-SCMOS-(18)(F) - (03) example shown

Step 1.	Choose the intensifier	se the intensifier diameter		Step 2.	Step 2. Choose a minimum gatir	
	Intensifier diameter	Code			Gating speed	Code
$ (\mathcal{O}) $	Ø 18 mm	18		[/]	High QE, slow gating	н
	Ø 25 mm	25		GATING SPEED	Fast Gating	F
Intensifier Diameter	Please contact Andor regarding Ø	25 mm options.		Gating Speed	Ultra Fast Gating	U

Step 3. Select an image intensifier option

	Gen 2 Intensifier option	P43 phosphor	P46 phosphor	Gen 3 Intensifier option	P43 phosphor	P46 phosphor
	W-AGT photocathode	03	04	HVS photocathode	63	64
	W-AGT photocathode, MgF ₂	05	-	VIH photocathode	73	74
	WR photocathode	13	14	NIR photocathode	93	94
Intensifier	UW photocathode	83	84	EVS photocathode	A3	A4
	WE-AGT photocathode	E3	E4	WE-AGT	E3	E4

Step 4. Select the required accessories and adapters

	Description	Order Code
	C-mount lens adaptor	LM-C
	F-mount lens adaptor	LM-NIKON-F
0 0	UV-VIS 105mm SLR lens, 250 - 650 nm transmission, F-mount	OL-AF10-F45-#UV2
	Oasis 160 Ultra compact chiller unit (tubing to be ordered separately)	ACC-XW-CHIL-160
Accessories &	6 mm tubing options for ACC-XW-CHIL-160 (2x2.5 m or 2x5 m lengths)	ACC-6MM-TUBING-2X2.5/ ACC-6MM-TUBING-2X5M
Adapters	I ² C to BNC cable for Kymera and Shamrock shutter control	ELC-05323
	Metric Bracket, converts 1/4-20 mounting points to M6	ACC-ISTAR-METRIC ADP
	15 m active USB 3.0 connector cable (power supply not required)	ACC-ASE-06887
	50 m fibre optic USB 3.0 extender solution including power supply	ACC-ASE-08762
	100 m fibre optic USB 3.0 extender solution including power supply	ACC-ASE-07860

The iStar sCMOS requires at least one of the following software options:

Step 5. Select the required software

Solis for Time-Resolved A 32-bit and fully 64-bit enabled application for Windows (8, 8.1 and 10) offering rich functionality for data acquisition and processing. AndorBasic provides macro language control of data acquisition, processing, display and export.

Software

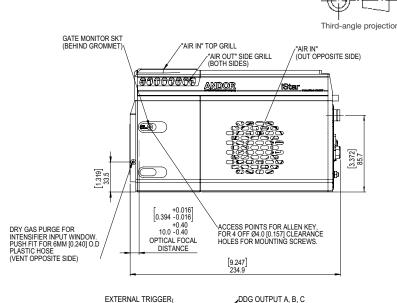
Andor SDK3 A software development kit that allows you to control the Andor sCMOS cameras from your own application. Available as 32/64-bit libraries for Windows (8, 8.1 and 10) and Linux. Compatible with C/C++, LabView and Matlab.

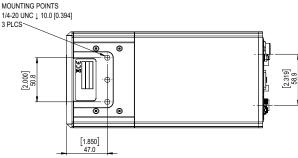
GPU Express Andor GPU Express library has been created to simplify and optimize data transfers from camera to a CUDAenabled NVidia Graphical Processing Unit (GPU) card to facilitate accelerated GPU processing as part of the acquisition pipeline. Integrates easily with Andor SDK3 for Windows.

Product drawings

Dimensions in mm [inches]

18MM CAMERA: Ø 21.80 [0.858] 25MM CAMERA: Ø 27.40 [1.079] (0.157] 0.4 PLCS 10.7





Weight: 4.5 kg [9 lb 15 oz]

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

- RoHS compliant
- EU EMC Directive
- EU LV Directive
- IEC 61010-1 CB Scheme

EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLY COMPLIANCE

- UL-certified for Canada and USA
- Japanese PSE Mark

POWER SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS

- Power: +12 VDC ± 5% @ 5 A typ. / 9 A max.
- Ripple: 120 mV peak-peak 0 20 MHz
- 100 240 VAC, 43 67 Hz External power supply
- Power Consumption:
- Camera + External Power Supply (Typ./ Max.): 69 W/ 124 W
- Camera Only (Typ./ Max.): 60 W/ 108 W

Connecting to the iStar sCMOS

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Camera Control

EARTHING STUD

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POWER

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Connector type: USB 3.0*12

Logic Input / Output

Connector type: SMA, provided with SMA - BNC cable 6x outputs: FIRE pulse, Output A, B, C from DDG, ARM, and Aux Out. 3x inputs: Camera trigger from 3rd party source (External Trigger), direct gate for direct external control of intensifier gating, and Pre-Trigger

٩RM

DIRECT GATE

~AUX OUT ~PRE-TRIG IN

USB 3.0 (OPTIONAL LOCKABLE INTERFACE)

[0.315]

Ø 8.0 ID WATER CONNECTIONS

COMPATIBLE WITH 1/4" BORE SOFT HOSE

(2 PLCS)

I²C connector

Compatible with Fischer SC102A054-130, pin-outs as follow: 1 = Shutter (5V CMOS level with 50 Ω impedance), 2 = I²C Clock (5 V), 3 = I²C Data (5 V), 4 = +5 Vdc, 5 = Ground

Gate Monitor

1x output: AC coupling to photocathode

Aux Out (external mechanical shutter output)

Configured by default to a 5 V CMOS level with 50 Ω impedance shutter output for controlling Andor Shamrock spectrograph mechanical shutters

Pre-trigger

Controls the sensor exposure in 'external exposure mode'. Also available in 'external trigger mode' as a optional exclusive trigger to the sensor.

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ORDER TODAY

Need more information? At Andor we are committed to finding the correct solution for you. With a dedicated team of technical advisors, we are able to offer you one-to-one guidance and technical support on all Andor products. For a full listing of our regional sales offices, please see: andor.com/contact

Our regional headquarters are:

EUROPE

Belfast, Northern Ireland Phone +44 (28) 9023 7126 Fax +44 (28) 9031 0792

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JAPAN Tokyo

Phone +81 (3) 6732 8968 Fax +81 (3) 6732 8939

CHINA

Beijing Phone +86 (10) 5884 7900 Fax +86 (10) 5884 7901

ITEMS SHIPPED WITH YOUR CAMERA

1 x USB 3.0 PCIe Card and 1 x 3 m USB 3.0 cable (Type A to B)

1x Gate Monitor cable

2x 2 m BNC to SMA cable

- 1x Power supply with mains cable
- 1x Quick Start Guide
- 1x User guides in electronic format
- 1x Individual perfomance booklet

FOOtnotes: Specifications are subject to change without notice

- Note that the write speed of the PC hard drive can impose a further restriction to achieving sustained kinetic series acquisition. All frame rates specified are given for non-overlap mode.
 Figures are typical unless otherwise stated.
- Figures are typical unless otherwise stated.
 Readout noise is for the entire system and is taken as a median over the sensor area excluding any regions of blemishes. It is a combination of sensor readout noise and A/D noise.
- Dark current measurement is taken as a median over the sensor area excluding any regions of blemishes.
- 5. Linearity is measured from a plot of Signal vs. Exposure Time over the full dynamic range.
- 6. The On/Off ratio for the 'E3 and E4' image intensifier in the UV with MCP gating is typically 105.
- 7. Typical photocathode Quantum Efficiency and input window transmission as measured by the tube manufacturer.
- Typical resolution of the image intensifier tube only, not the overall resolution of the system. As a rough guide, the smallest resolvable FWHM feature will be approximately 4x the sensor pixel size. This is a very important consideration for optical resolution calculations in spectrograph-based systems.
- Gen 2 High QE (H) option Photocathode QE is inherently linked to the gating speed of the intensifier. High QE option (H) offers higher peak QE than Ultrafast (U) or Fast (F) intensifiers, while exhibiting minimum gating speed one order of magnitude slower.
- 10. Actual measured minimum optical gating of the photocathode, reflecting not only the electrical pulse width applied to the photocathode but also its inherent irising time.
- 11. Gain is software-selectable through a 12-bit DAC and varies exponentially with DAC setting. Value refers to the ratio of max to min intensifier gain as measured for individual cameras. Actual optical gain (counts/ photoe⁻) for a DAC setting is accessed by the multiplication of the relative gain (at that DAC value) by the minimum system gain (at DAC = 0, sCMOS e⁻ /photoe⁻) and divided by the sCMOS sensitivity (sCMOS e⁻/ count). Sensitivities are individually measured and reported for each system.
- 12. USB 3.0 connection should work with any modern USB 3.0 enabled PC/laptop (provided hard drives or RAM is sufficient to support data rates) as every USB 3.0 port should have its own host controller. iStar sCMOS also ship with a USB 3.0 PCIe card as a means to add a USB 3.0 port to an older PC, or as a diagnostic aid to interoperability issues or to ensure maximum speed.

MINIMUM COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS:

- 3 GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM (increase RAM if to be used for continuous data spooling)
- Hard Drive: Minimum 450 MB/s continuous write
- PCI Express x4 or greater
- Windows (8, 8.1 or 10) or Linux
- * See technical note entitled: 'PC Specifications for sCMOS'

Operating and Storage Conditions

- Operating Temperature: 0°C to 40°C ambient
- Relative Humidity: < 70% (non-condensing)
- Storage Temperature: -20°C to 55°C

Power Requirements

Please refer to page 10



Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation