**PIAS-II System Software v.3.0 Release Notes**

The latest version of the PIAS-II system software, now available as an optional upgrade, offers important advances over earlier releases. Users will benefit from the many enhancements now standard in V.3.0.

*Significant improvements include:*

* *Support of the latest operating systems*
* *Enhanced support of color measurements*
* *Improved accuracy of color and density measurements*
* *New features for existing tools*
* *New functions and new tools*
* *Support of many powerful new hardware and software options*

***Support of the Latest Operating Systems***. V.3.0 now supports Windows 7 and Windows 10.

***New Features for Existing Analysis Tools*.** Among many other improvements implemented in the v.3.0 upgrade, the most significant include: the addition of calibrated spaces (reflectance) under color channel selection in the Dot, Line, Edge and Background tools and, correspondingly, the reporting of analysis results in calibrated units (i.e., reflectance, density and color in CIELab). The use of calibrated units is very important for ensuring consistent analysis results and agreement between instruments. However, for backward compatibility, the system allows continued use of the uncalibrated RGB space in analyses. In the Dot tool, a new “roughness” metric is also added. This metric provides a valuable measure of dot (blob) characteristics in many applications.

***New Functionalities and Tools.*** An important new addition to the PIAS-II analysis toolbox is the Text and Graphics Tool. The Text and Graphics Tool extends dot analysis to include objects (blobs) with counters (inside holes) and reports results with both the outside and inside counters included in the analysis. This tool can be used to analyze many important features such as Asian characters and the alphabets and scripts of other languages. Like the dot, line, edge and background tools, the text tool supports the use of calibrated color channels for the analysis, and reports analysis results in calibrated units of reflectance, density and color.

***Improved Support of Specialized Optics Modules.*** The power of the PIAS-II lies not only in its analytical software, but in its interchangeable optics modules for advanced configurations. These modules provide many standard as well as specialized functions. We continually add new optics to address new application requirements and opportunities. To provide better control for certain specialized modules, an “Imager” control function, supported as an option with the v.3.0 system software, is now available. Please consult QEA for further details.

***Improved Support of Quality Control and Process Control Applications.***  To facilitate use of the PIAS-II in production QC or routine testing, a “Process Control” module is offered as an option in the v.3.0 system software. In “Process Control” mode, the PIAS-II can be used interactively (as is typical) or in a programmed “Sequence” mode. As a sequence is executed, a database automatically logs the analysis data for data management and reporting purposes. “Process Control” mode enables PIAS-II use by operators with minimal experience or training, extending the benefits of the system beyond the laboratory and onto the production floor. Please consult QEA for further details.

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With the new v.3.0 software, the PIAS-II runs on the latest operating systems (Windows 7 and Windows 10). Significant advances greatly expand the system’s usability, consistency, and capability, while ensuring backward compatibility for users who want flexibility in choosing between old and new capabilities and functions.

Version 3.0 is a technically and functionally important upgrade for any PIAS-II user. The range of enhancements incorporated in v.3.0 is just the latest demonstration of QEA’s commitment to our customers and to continuous improvements in the tools we provide.

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