

# Making time go faster

COMPANY : Qualimatest

COUNTRY : Switzerland

For the luxury watch industry, accuracy is everything. With watches typically being sold for several thousand dollars, and in the case of the Patek Philippe Sky Moon Tourbillon 5002 P, \$1.5 million, a time piece must be perfect and still accurate many years later.

This means that all components must be precision engineered and inspection systems put in place to ensure the luxury watches match their buyers' high expectations. Until recently, however, this has been a manual process, using a video microscope viewed by the manufacturer's team of experts to analyse the vital components.

With such watches containing over 500 individual mechanisms and components, and each component requiring multiple measurements taken, this is an exceptionally time and cost intensive process and only the most critical of components are therefore inspected.

Qualimatest has created an automated vision camera system. Called QMT WatchProjector it is already helping a number of major watch manufacturers to increase both the accuracy and speed of this process.

At the heart of the system is a Sony XCG5005 GigE camera. Because maximum resolution is essential this is set to 5 Megapixels and a telecentric lens is used. Once connected to a PC running Qualimatest's proprietary analysis software the system is able to accurately measure and analyse 20 times the number of components as a seasoned expert, and accuracy has increased too.

**ENDS**

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Sony ISS Division is in charge of Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Middle East countries and Africa.

Sony Europe's Image Sensing Solutions division have designed, developed and manufactured an in-depth range of component cameras and image sensing products that you can depend upon, even in the most demanding applications.

Industry leading products include High Definition cameras; intelligent 'smart camera' products; standard definition colour and monochrome CCD video cameras for analogue and digital (IEEE 1394, GigE & CameraLink) vision systems, all of which satisfy numerous market sectors and applications. From manufacturing (industrial vision solutions), inspection, security, monitoring, webcasting, videoconferencing, scientific and medical markets we thoroughly understand your requirements and the specialised environments in which our products need to operate.