OWENS CORNING EVALUATION OF THE KATANAX X-300

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Website www.katanax.com

Katanax X-300 Automated Fusion Machine: Proven to be Versatile in a Wide Range of Applications during Trial

A 3 month pre-release trial of the Katanax X-300 was conducted at the Analytical Testing Laboratory located in the Owens Corning Science and Technology Center in Granville, OH. Since its inception in 1938, Owens Corning has become a global company, based in Toledo, OH which develops, manufactures and markets insulation, roofing and fiberglass composites. The Analytical Testing Lab is the main corporate lab for Owens Corning, providing technical support for the entire company, to include regional labs and Research and Development performed on site. The Analytical Testing Lab encompasses Microscopy, Organic and Inorganic groups. The Inorganic group utilizes a wide range of instrumental and wet-chemical analyses, to include XRF.

Fusion is the main sample preparation utilized for the XRF analysis performed in Granville. Already a Katanax customer, with the K1 Prime and K2 Prime fusion instruments in the lab, and many K1 Prime fusers deployed within Owens Corning, the interest was to see if the X-300 would be a suitable instrument for use as a Granville back-up or for a plant lab. While the K1 Prime fuses 1 sample at a time, the X-300 is capable of fusing 3 samples per run. This level of capacity would better suit plant operations, which are not high through-put, but by necessity need to be able to provide rapid sample preparations for quick turn-around of results.

Senior Scientist Lynn Schurter coordinated the test trial, with technicians Rachel Bongini and Matt McDonald extensively utilizing the X-300 to prepare a wide range of samples for XRF analysis. Some impressions include:

> While I prefer the rack system on the 6-position K2, I liked how the X-300 heated and cooled more quickly than the K2. It was so efficient and thorough at cooling that the samples were cool to the touch by the end of the cycle, much more than the K2 in a comparable amount of time. The timer for the cycle is a very nice touch. – Rachel Bongini
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> I liked the countdown timer and the fact the samples were cooled when the cycle was done.
> - Matt McDonald
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> The X-300's robust design will be better suited for use in a plant environment. Since the X-300 is able to operate even if an element fails, this will limit down-time which is critical for meeting the needs of manufacturing. Since the crucible and mold holders are made of a high temperature alloy, any spills can be dissolved from components and should not need to be replaced. The software now includes up to 6 fusion steps and operates in a similar manner to the K1 and K2 Prime, so transitioning would be seamless. – Lynn Schurter

In the 3 month trial of the X-300, 400 cycles of the unit were run. The X-300 displayed no issues, with 6 different methods in use during the trial. In conclusion, "Katanax has always supplied wonderful technical support to all of the Owens Corning sites with their fusers. This support ensures that Katanax will be considered for future purchases of fusion instruments."

Disclaimer: This review is not an endorsement of the (Katanax X-300) product and/or services, either expressed or implied. Katanax wishes to thank the Inorganic Group at Owens Corning, especially Senior Scientist Lynn Schurter, for coordinating the test trial. We are very happy with their positive impression of our next generation X-Fluxer product.