

Iridian Spectral Technologies expands and diversifies after opening new production facility

Specializing in advanced deposition technology, Iridian's focus on R&D and product diversification in the photonics industry has kept them at the forefront of optical filter design and manufacture

Fast facts Corporate profile

Founded in 1998, Iridian Spectral Technologies Ltd. specializes in the design and manufacture of optical filters for various purposes within the photonics industry. Iridian offers its customers a wide array of optical filters as well as coating services. A global supplier, Iridian maintains headquarters in Canada. Iridian offers its customers individual service, advanced production facilities, and high quality manufacturing standards.

Why Ottawa

Located in the high tech campus of the National Research Council (NRC), Iridian takes advantage of the great tradition of research and innovation in the Ottawa Region. The company benefits from the world class talent available at the NRC and in Ottawa's high tech community. Iridian's past President and CEO, Peter Dawson, as well as Brian Sullivan, Vice President and CTO, came from the NRC.

Business advantage

Iridian Spectral Technologies has two software systems customers can profit from. *PrecisionSpectrum@IST*, and *PrecisionScan@IST*, increase the speed and production quality of optical filters, thus producing dense, robust optical films that are very durable. Iridian continues to diversify products and services available to customers. In October 2007, the company officially opened a new production facility. This facility offers increased automation and high volume, ensuring low costs to customers and allowing Iridian to branch out into other photonics products. In January 2009, Iridian announced large-form factor optical filters that can be used on Night Vision display systems. These *NVIS filters* complement the already vast array of optical filters that are available to Iridian customers.

Founded in 1998, Iridian Spectral Technologies Ltd. specializes in the design and manufacture of optical filters for various purposes within the photonics industry. A privately owned company, Iridian offers its customers a wide range of standard and custom filters as well as coating services for aerospace, telecoms, spectroscopy, biophotonics, laser applications, optical coating services, micro optics, and custom applications. Customers include the Canadian Space Agency.



Canada's Creative Economy Capital

Iridian is a global supplier with headquarters in Canada and representatives in Japan, China, and Korea. Focusing on advanced deposition technology, Iridian offers its customers individual service, custom optical film, advanced production facilities, and high quality manufacturing standards. The company often engages with customers from the early stages of product development.

Why Ottawa

Located in the high tech campus of the National Research Council (NRC), Iridian takes advantage of the great tradition of research and innovation in the Ottawa Region. The company also benefits from the world class talent available at the NRC and in Ottawa's wider high tech community.

For example, Iridian's past President and CEO, Peter Dawson, was the founding director of the NRC's Institute for Microstructural Science, responsible for 125 employees and the institute's strategic planning and operations. He now serves as Iridian's Chairman. Brian Sullivan, Vice President and CTO, developed Iridian's initial technology at the NRC. The leadership team also takes advantage of NRC's talent pool, as several other NRC researchers have also migrated to Iridian.

Taking pride in superior service and support, Iridian works closely with customers to determine the most effective and cost-efficient solutions. With a commitment to quality, service, technology, and partnership, Iridian offers standards and quality that has earned the company an enduring global leadership position in the photonics industry.

Ottawa's rich Information Technology Communications (ICT) sector provides additional intellectual capital to the company. This includes Iridian's President, George Laframboise, who was Director of Operations and Manager of Manufacturing for the Bank of Canada's Security Device project for protecting Canadian currency.

Business advantage

Iridian builds optical film, which is constructed of microstructures that use the properties of the materials they consist of to manipulate light. This light is then harnessed for use by Iridian customers in the various sectors which require photonics, such as large telecommunications vendors, laser manufacturers, and Raman spectroscopy and biophotonics equipment vendors.

Iridian specializes in advanced deposition technology, which gives it a unique edge in optical filter design



and manufacture. The company's *PrecisionSpectrum@IST*, is an advanced software system to control the design, deposition and process of producing the optical filters and coating services.

Another Iridian system, *PrecisionScan@IST*, is an optical characterization and filter processing technology that ensures the highest quality output.

These two specialized systems gives Iridian increased design flexibility and improved production speed. The result is the production of dense, robust optical films that are very durable. So durable, in fact, that they can be used in the rigors of space exploration.

In October 2007, the company officially opened a new production facility that is housing its Lens Division. This facility offers increased automation and high volume, to ensure low cost to customers, allowing Iridian to branch out into:

- filter lenses for the 3D glasses used in movie theaters
- beam splitters
- high volume anti-reflection coatings for optical components
- other custom applications

In January, 2009, Iridian announced large-form factor optical filters that can be used on Night Vision display systems. Called *NVIS filters*, these complement the already vast array of optical filters that customers can come to expect from Iridian.

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Future growth plans

Iridian continues to diversify available products and services. New offerings include the company's *NVIS filters* and filter lenses for 3D glasses. Iridian is also working to present a more integrated service to customers. With its new facility, the company can offer completely assembled glasses and goggles containing optical filters. Iridian maintains a strong focus on research and development, to progress the technologies the company uses to produce optical filters and coatings.

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