

--For Immediate Release--

Optech Introduces Sentry SR Level Monitor for Process Control Industry

Toronto, Ontario, June 30, 2004—Optech Incorporated, the global leader in the development and manufacture of laser-based survey instruments, is pleased to introduce the Sentry SR laser-based continuous level monitor.

The Sentry SR is the latest addition to the Optech laser-level and object-positioning product family, which includes the popular Sentinel and Watchman models. Using reliable pulsed time-of-flight technology, and housed in rugged, industrial-grade enclosures, Optech laser instruments are designed to perform in applications where location, environment or process characteristics can impede reliable operation of conventional technologies.

"We are very excited to be the first company to have a global laser level product available for the process control industry," said Michael Vujcic, Director, Industrial Products Division for Optech. "The Sentry SR is the first product which has North American and European approvals for hazardous locations as well as laser eyesafety, making it suitable for installation around the world. With our expanding representatives network, a lower price point for end users and a growing economy Optech expects to see strong growth in unit sales moving forward."

Specifically designed for industrial level measurement applications of up to 25 meters in range, the Sentry SR comes complete with an explosion-proof enclosure bearing CSA, FM, CE and ATEX approvals. Two models will be available to suit application requirements:

- DV model, configured for dusty solids applications allowing the user to get reliable readings even in harsh conditions;
- CP model, configured for higher accuracy and clear path applications.

As with the Sentinel, the Sentry is completely non-intrusive, utilizing a flange-mounted sight glass arrangement to remain totally isolated from sensitive processes. Pre-packaged mounting kits and brackets are available to suit popular flange sizes, or to facilitate open-access mounting. Additional dust-and-contaminant purging hardware is available to help maintain sight glass transparency thus reducing the need for manual intervention.

Outputs on the Sentry include an isolated 4-20mA signal, local RS-232 as well as two independently programmable relays. Setup of the unit via the on-board menu-driven software can be accomplished using a Palm© handheld, personal computer or Optech-supplied hand-held programmer/display. HART-compatible units will be available before year-end.

All of these output features are available on the standard unit, at a cost approximately 30% less than the existing Sentinel model. The Sentinel will now be offered exclusively for long-range level and positioning applications.

About Optech

Optech is the world leader in the development, manufacture and marketing of laser-based industrial process control and mining instruments, and the company's Cavity Monitoring System (CMS) sets the global standard in 3D mine surveying. In addition to the Sentry SR and CMS, Optech offers client-driven solutions in airborne terrestrial mapping, hydrographic surveying, laser imaging, space-based atmospheric monitors and spaceborne landing/docking systems.

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