

CASE STUDY

CoMic™ Product Development with Fraunhofer UK

LUX Assure, a specialist in the provision of chemical monitoring and management solutions, enlisted the photonics expertise of Glasgow-based Fraunhofer UK, Europe's largest application-oriented research organisation, to assist in the enhancement of their CoMic™ product.

CoMic™ has been available for use in the field since 2012 and, following updates made in 2016-7, is available as an on-site, operator deployable technology to inform corrosion inhibitor management. LUX prides itself on being innovative and strives to offer its clients a great user experience; continual updates of its products are an important part of its work.

The original CoMic™ kit consisted of a separate laptop plus optical analyser; this was not considered an efficient use of space, which is of prime importance in offshore laboratories. A separate laptop also posed challenges for shipping and transportation due to presence of lithium ion batteries. Opportunities to improve the optical signals were also identified, through changes to design and components. With specialist knowledge in photonics, electronics and software, Fraunhofer UK were ideally placed to lead the CoMic™ product improvement.

Fraunhofer UK delivered the updated version in 2018 which showcased an integrated touch screen within a new durable case. The result - a product that is more compact and robust, making it better for oilfield use and one that is simpler to ship to LUX's customers in remote international locations.

Simon Andrews, Executive Director of Fraunhofer UK said: "We are better known for working on very advanced lasers and were delighted to be able to support LUX in applying our strengths in other areas of optics and product development."

Emma Perfect, CEO of LUX Assure commented: "We have been impressed with Fraunhofer's skills, knowledge and experience, and delighted to find such expertise on our doorstep. We are thrilled with the end result. Our redeveloped product will be available later in 2019 yet already we have received expressions of interest from customers and compliments on its small size and ease of use."

