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Extech Adds Safety to High Voltage Testing with First-Ever Non-Contact Laser Test Probes



(Nashua, NH, USA) March 30th, 2012 Extech Instruments, (www.extech.com/instruments), makers of the leading handheld test and measurement tools, announced the introduction of the first-ever non-contact laser test probes designed for utility and plant electrical professionals working in high-voltage and high-energy electrical maintenance and diagnostics.

The new LP100 series laser probes leverage existing laser voltage probe designs with voltage and timing waveform acquisition technology previously only available at the scale intended for flip-chip integrated circuit analysis.

By integrating an advanced, scaled voltage waveform signal measurement processor in a compact, double insulated, IP67 rated, silicone module integrated with the test probe wires, the new LP100 laser voltage probes are easy to use with the added safety that comes with added distance from high voltage energized equipment.

Polly Achi, Extech high voltage product manager explained the advantage of the new LP100s, "In its most basic form, the operation of the LP100 is remarkably similar to that of a sampling oscilloscope—but with so much more versatility. Our utility customers and electrical contractors managing substations at expansive manufacturing facilities can now take precise, point-and-shoot measurements from a safe distance without any distance-to-spot compromises."

Extech's LP100 uses two infrared (IR) lasers to perform both device imaging and waveform acquisition. One laser acquires waveforms from the electrical source, while the other laser creates a reference to eliminate unwanted noise from the signal data that is acquired. On energized equipment, the instrument monitors the changes in the phase of the electromagnetic field surrounding the high current. Averaging of measurements over time produces a more refined waveform. The end result is a waveform that is representative of the electrical signal.

Achi adds, "This new innovation was designed for Extech Power Quality Analyzers, Clamp Meters, and Digital Multimeters but can be used with any electrical meter as readings are converted over several ranges to a millivolt output much like existing meter adaptor accessories."

The LP100 Laser Test Probes are available at all Extech distributors, as of May 1st, 2012. Visit www.extech.com for more information.

About Extech Instruments

Extech Instruments is recognized as the source for the best handheld test and measurement tools worldwide. Founded in 1971, Extech is known for its depth and breadth of innovative testers and meters suited for electrical, HVAC, building/restoration, as well as a host of environmental testers for measurement of sound, light, humidity and other factors. All Extech meters are distributed worldwide through leading representatives, distributors and OEMs. The company is headquartered in Nashua, New Hampshire, USA and is ISO 9001 2008 certified.