

April 22, 2009

RE: Imago Scientific Instrument's Local Electrode Atom Probe

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to indicate the performance and impact of Imago Scientific Instrument's Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP™) at the University of Alabama (UA). In 2006, the Office of Research at UA provided funds for a substantial infrastructure investment within its general user Central Analytical Facility (www.caf.ua.edu). The CAF was looking for an instrument that would service its nanotechnology research users while providing a new resource that would be distinctive in its capability. Several faculty members were actively engaged in acquiring an atom probe because of its recent technical advancements, including wider field of views, increased data acquisition rates and the ability to characterize poor electrical conductors, such as semiconductors and ceramics, as well as traditional metallic alloys. Upon reviewing the available commercial instruments, the CAF advisory board recommended and was granted the purchase for a LEAP™.

The reasons of this decision were the following: (1) Imago Scientific Instruments are leaders in developing and advancing the atom probe tomography technique. (2) The LEAP™'s patented local electrode allowed users to probe difficult to access regions, such as bulk grain boundaries (see Colijn *et al. Microscopy and Microanalysis*. **10(2)** (2004) 1150-1151). (3) The LEAP™ allows for simultaneous multiple tip arrays in the specimen chamber for step-and-repeat analysis. (4) From its initial commercial launch in 2003, the LEAP™ has been at the forefront in high impact, atom probe based research in the scientific community.

Currently, the LEAP™ 3000XSi accounts for a significant percentage of total tool usage time in UA's CAF. The data collected from the LEAP™ has strengthened UA's national and international research presence. The LEAP™ is considered the 'crown jewel' of the CAF instrumentation. It has and continues to meet the expectation of UA faculty and external users in its capability and impact in their research. Imago Scientific Instrument's has been responsive in providing technical assistance and maintenance when required. If I can be of any further assistance in explaining the impact, performance or general review of the LEAP™, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



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