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Press Release

Gaithersburg, MD, February, 2015: Optical Scientific Inc. (OSi), well known for high reliability / innovative optical meteorological sensor development, announces the OWV-300 Optical Wind and Visibility Sensor. The OWV-300 is a state of the art instrument for measuring turbulence, wind speed, and atmospheric visibility over a path length of 50 - 250 meters.

The sensor is based on technology developed by OSi with NOAA to measure cross wind and turbulence over long path lengths of up to 10 km or more. The OWV-300 operates on a combination of long path optical extinction and optical scintillation. All the electronics are housed in the optical head and run by a proven Digital Signal Processor (DSP), which is at the core of every OSi optical sensor product. The OWV-300 uses a corner cube reflector to "fold" the light path. This technology has significant advantages over traditional double-ended technology offering twice the signal to noise ratio, reduces siting to a single installation, and greatly reducing pointing / alignment issues.

The OWV-300 is designed for long-term unattended field use and its interfaces include RS232, RS485, and Ethernet. The sensor has the ability to discriminate between visibility impairments caused by fog versus smoke / haze / dust.

The OWV-300 has been extensively tested by NASA and proven to accurately detect wake vortex of aircraft near ground level. Other airport applications include transmissometer like performance in the reporting of meteorological optical range and runway visual range. Runway cross winds may also be measured by the OWV-300.



Non-airport applications include fence line monitoring, fog/dust/smoke detection, wind data for plume dispersion modeling, and roof vent monitoring. A single sensor path yields cross-wind information. Two sensor paths set at a right angle to each other yields typical 2 dimensional wind data. If an area is enclosed by three or more links, 3D wind information (including up-draft / down-draft) can be reported.