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# TEST, MEASUREMENT & POSITIONING

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#### Mars-Rover-Tested Precision Motion Technologies

Physik Instrumente (PI) and PI miCos offer the broadest and deepest portfolio of precision motion technologies in the world: from stepper stages to piezo mechanisms and hexapods for ambient and vacuum environments. Our engineers understand your application and will match it to the appropriate technology.

PI's PICMA® piezo actuators are employed in the ChemIn instrument on the Mars rover's science lab. These actuators survived 100 billion cycles of life testing with no failures, maintaining 96% of their specified performance. The Mars rover employs another PI precision positioner, the MT-40 Space, closely based on a commercial-off-the-shelf stepper motor stage, manufactured by PI subsidiary PI miCos. This linear stage is used as a focusing mechanism for laser induced breakdown spectrometry.

These are but two examples of how our expertise solves mission critical motion control problems even under the toughest conditions. Talk to our engineers or visit our website to learn more.

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#### Optical tools get new twist

Conventional optical tools gently push and pull microscopic particles using light, but a new fiber-based system also gives microbiologists the ability to twist and turn samples.

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#### Tests Underscore Potential Hazards of Laser Pointers

Of the 122 laser pointers tested recently by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, nearly 90 percent of the green pointers and about 44 percent of the red were out of compliance with federal safety regulations, the agency reported recently at a laser safety conference.

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# Plasmonics could allow manipulation of smallest particles yet

Optical tweezers could become extremely dexterous at manipulating incredibly tiny particles if a new theoretical design based on plasmonics becomes a reality.

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#### Nanotubes on a Chip Simplify Optical Power Measurements

A novel chip-scale instrument made of carbon nanotubes may simplify absolute measurements of laser power, especially the light signals transmitted by optical fibers in telecommunication networks.

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