

# SGS UPSTREAM SERVICES

**ADDS UP**

SGS OIL, GAS AND CHEMICALS SERVICES

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SAMPLING IN GAS WELLS:  
CHALLENGES & CONCEPTUAL SOLUTIONS



WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

**SGS**

- Challenges
- Operator Issues
- Basic Sand Sampling
- Sand Services
  - Side-stream Sandbox
  - Setting Up of Sandbox
- Oil Wells Sand Sampling
- Gas Wells Sand Sampling
- Gas Well Sand Profiling
- Onsite & Offsite Analysis
  - PSD via LPSA / JM Canty
  - QEMSCAN / XRD/XRF
- SMS Oilfield – Acoustic Sand Sensor
- Sample Report
- Other Sand Services
  - In-Situ Sand Injection
  - Sand Screen Retention Testing
  - Wall Thickness Measurement (SMS)

- Sand is found in vessels, but standard sampling practices for gas wells are not able to capture sand?
- Acoustic Systems not always showing sand production or estimated production doesn't match up with what is found in facilities...
- What can we do?...



- Unable to find competent personnel or service providers
- Level of risk too high to attempt (gas leak/gas volume)
- Sampling representativeness questionable
- Lack of vessels (facilities) in the process system to capture solids or sand at full bore level or at individual well level



Sampling is a method for obtaining representative samples of solids from a well or process stream. If taken regularly samples can also be used to estimate the quantity of solids produced over time. It can then be analysed to determine composition and grain size. However, to be effective it is essential that suitable sampling locations, equipment, procedures and analysis are utilised. Difficulties with sampling which is it is only representative of that moment in time, therefore without real time monitoring it is very difficult to understand if the sample is representative.

- Ideal sampling locations should be along a horizontal section of pipe from a 6 o'clock sampling point.
- Sand samples taken from a turbulent flow are more representative thus sand sample points located downstream to a turbulent point such as valves, reducers, elbow/bend will imply likely representative samples. For Gas Wells this is even more challenging and often a probe will need to be inserted for isokinetic sampling.
- Take multiple samples to obtain more accurate representation.
- Volumes or weight of sand or solids collected must be recorded.
- Well details, sampling time, sampling location must be labelled on the sample bottle.
- Conduct PSD analysis to determine if sample sizes are larger than downhole screen size as this indicates downhole sand control failure.
- PSD analysis on sand samples is also used to determine accurate erosion rates and sand drop out (deposition calculations).

# APPLICATION – CLIENT A

Well: XX-1

Filter ID	Filter Size (µm)	Date	Start Time	End Time	Choke Size (%)	Tracer Liquid Production Rate, $Q_e$ (bbl/d)	Sand Weight (g)	<u>Sand Rate</u> (kg/d)	Remarks
1	5	10-05-18	17:15	17:45	24%	255.59	0.1260	0.8533	1 <sup>st</sup> run
2	5	10-05-18	18:15	20:15	24%		0.0729	0.1277	2 <sup>nd</sup> run
1	10	11-05-18	15:00	17:00	24%		0.4130	0.7297	1 <sup>st</sup> run
2	10	11-05-18	17:35	19:35	24%		0.1349	0.2394	2 <sup>nd</sup> run
6	5	13-05-18	13:40	15:40	29%	N/A	0.1364	N/A	Highest Rate

\*Sand Rates are computed using the liquid flowrates from tracer exercise.

Well: XX-2

Filter ID	Filter Size (µm)	Date	Start Time	End Time	Choke Size (%)	Tracer Liquid Production Rate, $Q_e$ (bbl/d)	Sand Weight (g)	<u>Sand Rate</u> (kg/d)	Remarks
5	5	13-05-18	08:45	10:45	44%	N/A	0.5122	N/A	Highest Rate

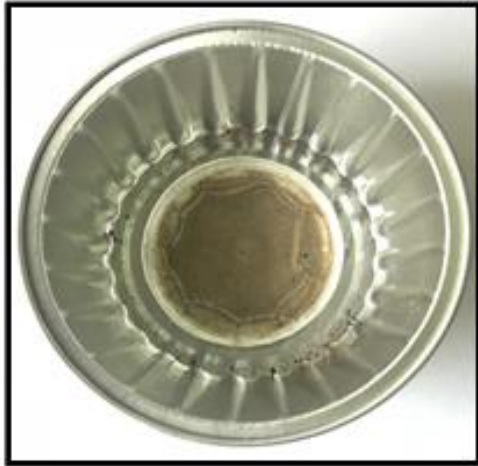
Well: XX-3

Filter ID	Filter Size (µm)	Date	Start Time	End Time	Choke Size (%)	Tracer Liquid Production Rate, $Q_e$ (bbl/d)	Sand Weight (g)	<u>Sand Rate</u> (kg/d)	Remarks
3	5	12-05-18	10:05	11:05	26%	213.66	0.0194	0.1648	1 <sup>st</sup> run
4	5	12-05-18	11:25	12:25	26%		0.0187	0.2117	2 <sup>nd</sup> run
3	10	12-05-18	12:55	13:55	26%		0.0295	0.1822	1 <sup>st</sup> run
7	5	13-05-18	18:50	20:50	42%	N/A	0.1393	N/A	Highest Rate

\*Sand Rates are computed using the liquid flowrates from tracer exercise.



## SAMPLES COLLECTED



Filter ID-1 5µm (1<sup>st</sup> run)



Filter ID-2 5µm (2<sup>nd</sup> run)



Filter ID-1 10µm (1<sup>st</sup> run)



Filter ID-2 10µm (2<sup>nd</sup> run)



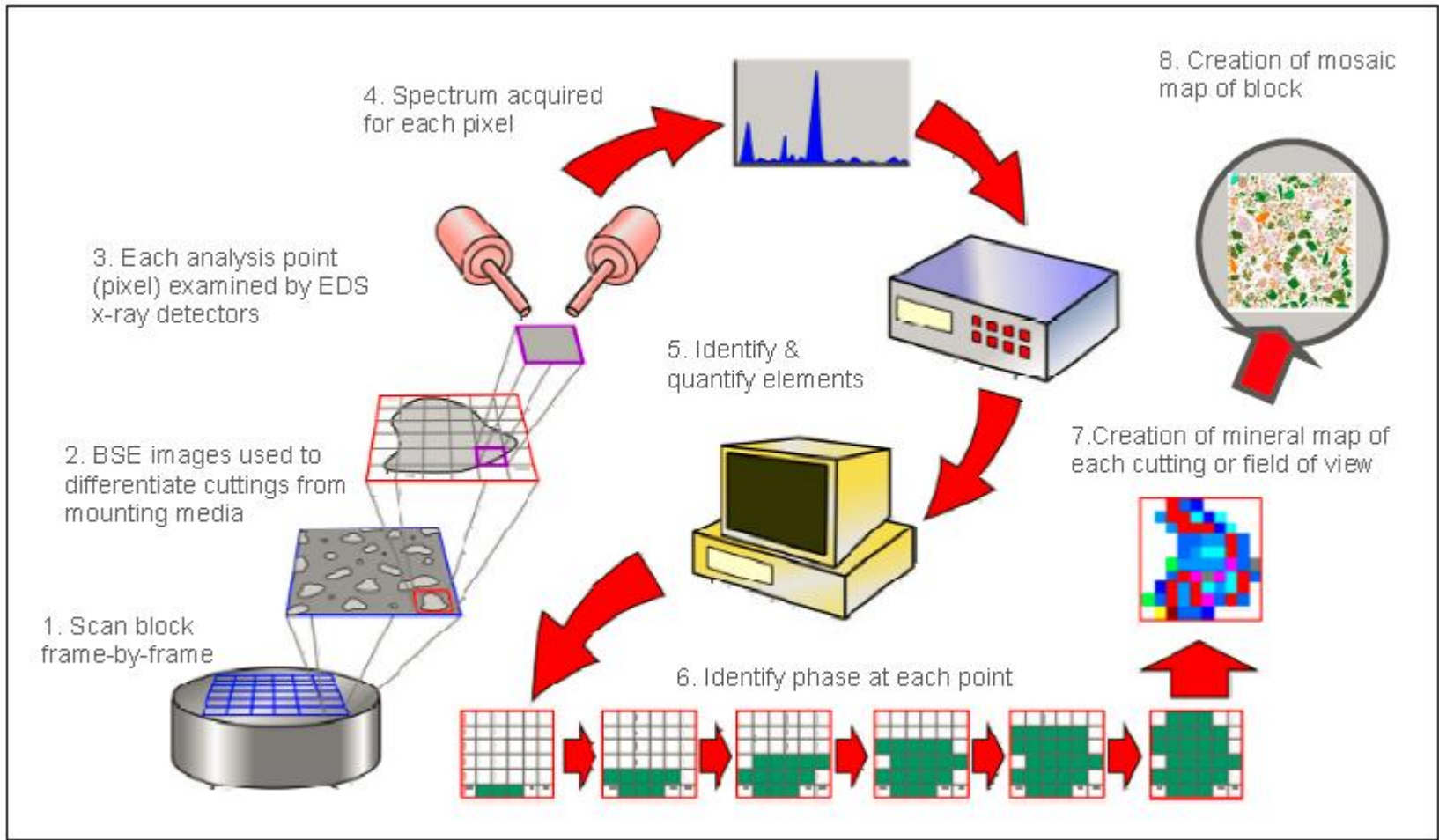
Filter ID-6 5µm (Highest Rate)

< 1g samples in every run, unable to perform XRD / XRF to determine the composition where it requires a minimum of 50g.

- ADVANCED RESERVOIR QUALITY SERVICES
- The analytical methodology used scans the electron beam over the sample at a pre-determined stepping interval;
- At each step a mineralogical determination is made based on the resultant BSE and X-ray signals. This results in a mineralogical “image” of each particle with a resolution equal to the beam stepping interval.
- For this study, measurements were set up to optimize both textural and modal mineralogical information and so the samples were analyzed at a beam stepping interval (resolution) of 10 microns.
- Using the QEMSCAN image analysis software (iDiscover), all of the individual Field Image frames were stitched together to form mineralogical images of the samples.

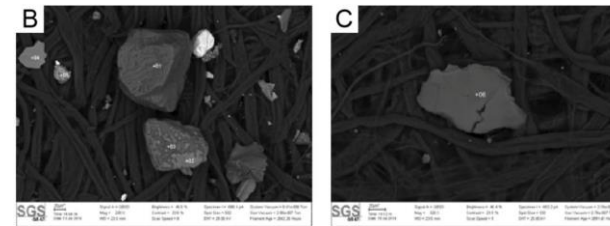
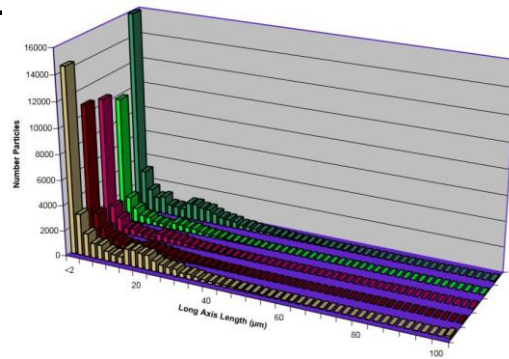
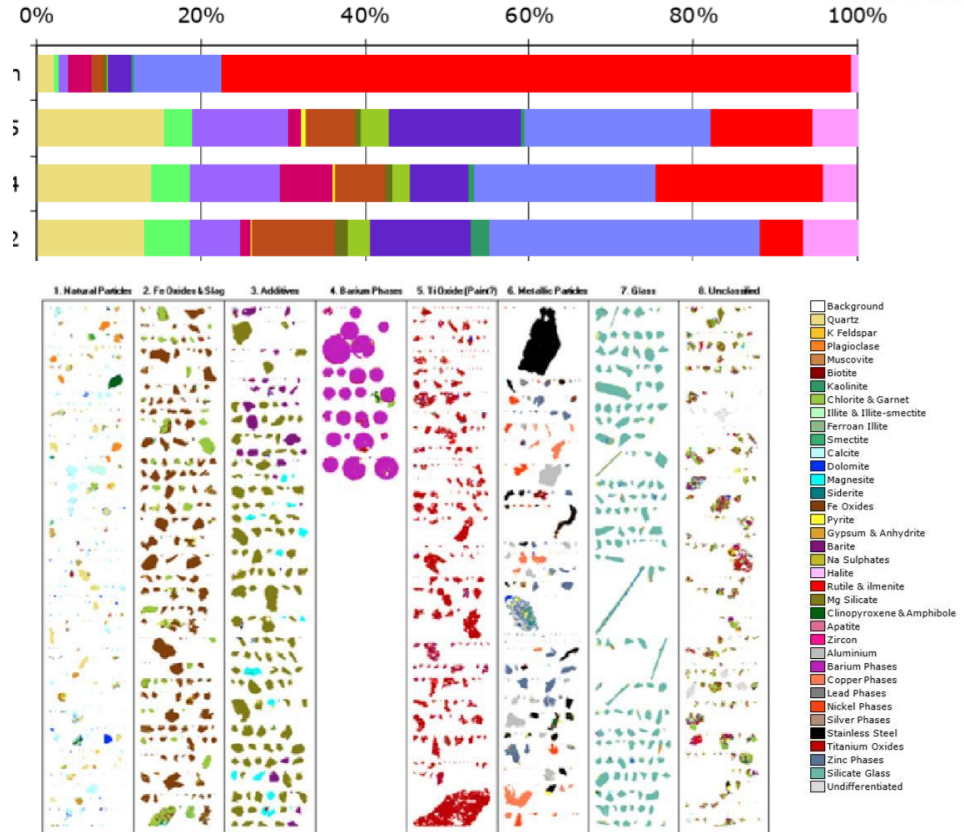


## ARQS – ANALYSIS PROCESS MAP

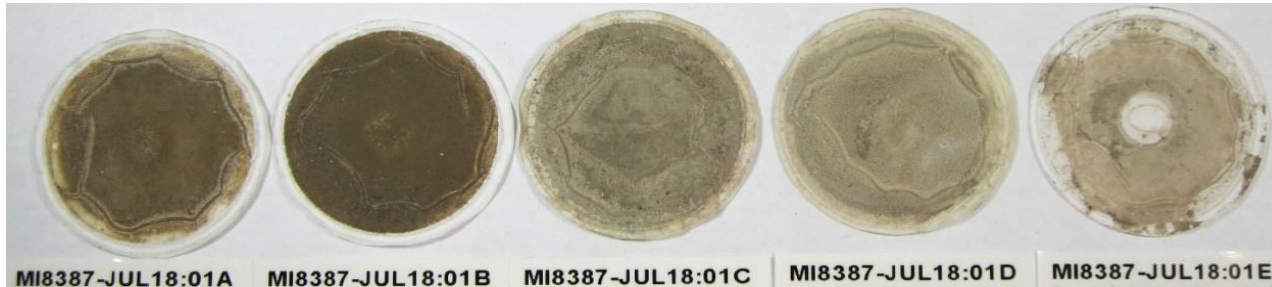


## QEMSCAN

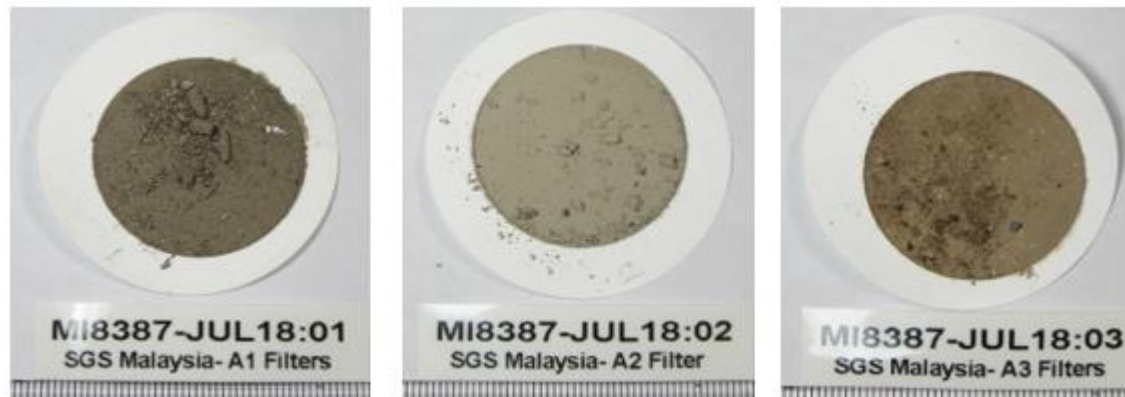
- QEMSCAN can provide quantitative bulk mineralogy, mineral size, calculated grain density, and dependant on sample quality, particle size distribution data.
- QEMSCAN combines Scanning Electron Microscopy with EDS-Xray detection combined with specialist analysis software to allow consistent and statistically sound measurement of mineralogy, type and texture.
- Aids in determining the makeup of the sand and any clay effects that may be causing screen issues.



## ARQS – SAMPLE PREPARATION



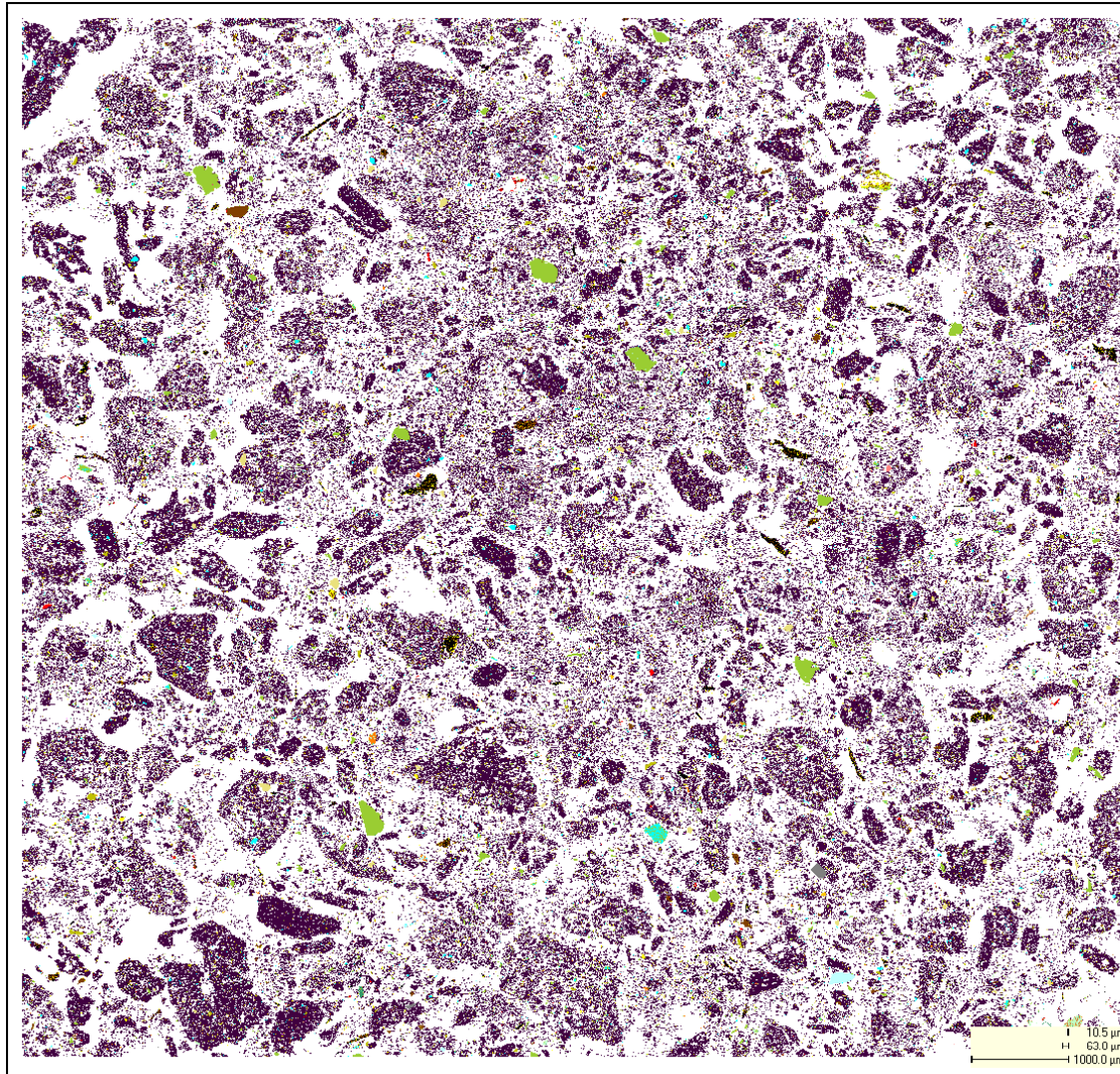
Samples collected at wells



Samples after cleaning and amalgamation



## QEMSCAN MINERAL IMAGES: WELL XX-1



Colour	Mineral	Area %
Light Yellow	Quartz	1.8
Orange	K Feldspar	0.1
Light Orange	Plagioclase	0.3
Brown	Muscovite	0.1
Dark Brown	Biotite	0.1
Green	Kaolinite	0.2
Light Green	Chlorite	3.6
Light Green	Illite & Illite-smectite	0.7
Light Blue	Calcite	0.3
Cyan	Dolomite	0.9
Brown	Fe Oxides & Siderite	1.9
Yellow	Fe Sulphides	1.5
Light Green	Cu Sulphides	0.6
Light Green	Zn & Pb Sulphides	0.2
Purple	Barite	85.8
Pink	Anhydrite	0.1
Red	Rutile & Ti Silicates	0.2
Light Red	Apatite	0.0
Pink	Zircon	0.0
Grey	Tungsten Carbide	0.5
Black	Stainless Steel	1.2
Grey	Undifferentiated	0.0

**Well:** A1  
**Reservoir:** Carbonate Gas Well  
**Sample Type:** Filtered Solids  
**Lab ID:** M18387-JUL18:01  
**Notes:** Five filters combined

Mineralogical image of a cross section through the sample block showing the shape and mineral composition of the particles.

**Major Minerals:**  
 Barite

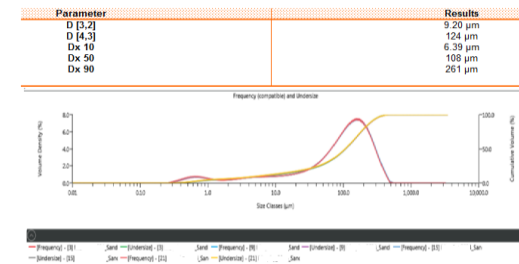
**Minor Minerals:**  
 Quartz, Chlorite, Fe Oxides & Siderite, Fe Sulphides, Stainless Steel

**Minor Minerals:**  
 Plagioclase, Muscovite, Kaolinite, Illite & Illite-smectite, Calcite, Dolomite, Cu Sulphides, Zn & Pb Sulphides, Anhydrite, Rutile & Ti Silicates, Tungsten Carbide

No.	Sampling Date	Well	Choke Size (%)	Pipeline			Average Sand Rate, Qs (kgd)	
				Press. (psi)	Qg (MMscf/d)	Qc (bbl/d)		
1	9-Nov-18	1	60%	150.0	3.20	503.30	0.032	
2	9-Nov-18	2	N/A	200.0	N/A	5.29	24.214	
3	10-Nov-18	3	100%	150.0	1.21	851.57	0.012	
4	10-Nov-18	4	50%	230.0	11.69	1131.95	0.117	
5	10-Nov-18	5	100%	150.0	0.72	301.72	0.007	
6	11-Nov-18	6	Well shut in					
7	11-Nov-18	7	100%	200.0	1.20	125.80	0.012	
8	12-Nov-18	8	Well shut in					
9	12-Nov-18	9	80%	450.0	17.94	805.10	0.179	
10	13-Nov-18	10	100%	400.0	16.95	367.20	0.170	
11	13-Nov-18	11	100%	350.0	1.09	355.20	0.011	
12	13-Nov-18	12	100%	300.0	0.85	332.80	0.009	
13	14-Nov-18	13	90%	150.0	1.40	401.79	0.014	
14	14-Nov-18	14	50%	150.0	3.86	677.62	0.039	

## PSD via LPSA

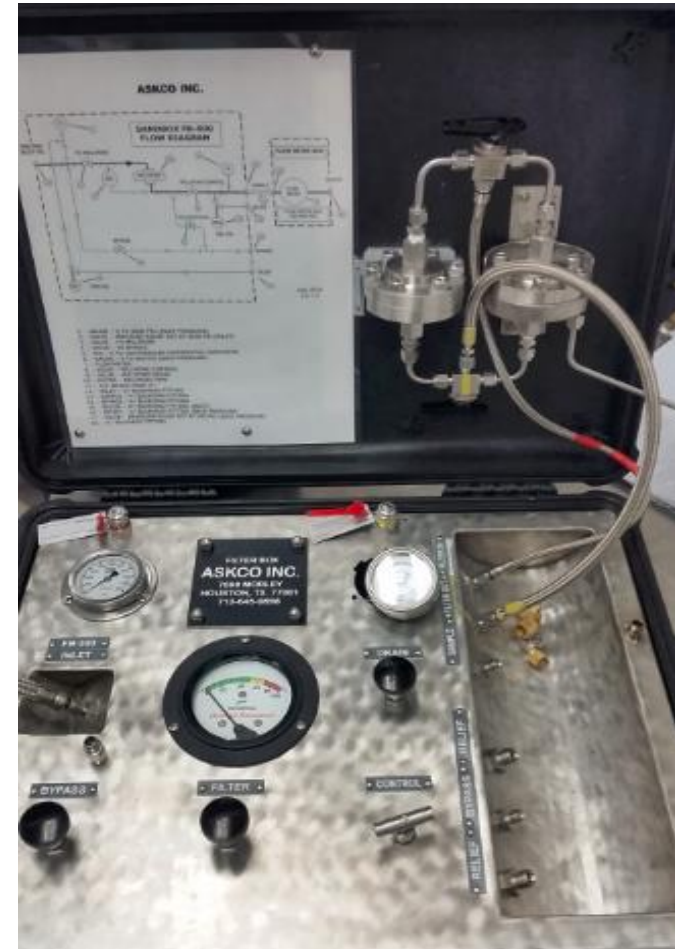
- The Mastersizer 3000 is the latest generation of the world's most widespread particle sizing instrument, used by many thousands of companies and research institutes across a wide range of industries.
- Measuring over the nanometer to millimeter particle size ranges, it packs exceptional performance into the smallest of footprints, bringing operator-independent measurements that every user can rely on.
- ability to measure over a maximum size range of 0.01 - 3500 microns using a single lens range
- Wide dynamic range - from submicron to the millimeter size range
- Rapid measurements - results generated in less than a minute
- Repeatability - large numbers of particles are sampled in each measurement.



Size (µm)	% Volume Under	Size (µm)	% Volume Under	Size (µm)	% Volume Under	Size (µm)	% Volume Under	Size (µm)	% Volume Under	Size (µm)	% Volume Under
0.0100	0.00	0.0679	0.00	0.460	0.84	3.12	6.92	21.2	16.72	144	63.07
0.0134	0.00	0.0771	0.00	0.523	1.30	3.55	7.40	24.1	17.73	163	69.35
0.0179	0.00	0.0876	0.00	0.594	1.84	4.03	7.92	27.4	18.85	186	75.60
0.0247	0.00	0.0996	0.00	0.675	2.42	4.58	8.47	31.1	20.13	211	81.55
0.0337	0.00	0.113	0.00	0.767	2.98	5.21	9.94	35.3	23.58	240	86.93
0.0469	0.00	0.128	0.00	0.872	3.51	5.92	9.64	40.1	23.27	272	91.49
0.0646	0.00	0.146	0.00	0.991	3.98	6.72	10.24	45.6	25.24	310	95.08
0.0881	0.00	0.166	0.00	1.13	4.36	7.64	10.85	51.8	27.56	352	97.62
0.1197	0.00	0.188	0.00	1.28	4.69	8.68	11.47	58.9	30.26	400	99.19
0.0165	0.00	0.214	0.00	1.45	4.97	9.86	12.11	66.9	33.42	454	99.96
0.0224	0.00	0.244	0.00	1.65	5.24	11.2	12.77	76.0	37.07	516	100.00
0.0307	0.00	0.276	0.0007	1.88	5.51	12.7	13.46	86.4	41.25	586	100.00
0.0421	0.00	0.314	0.07	2.13	5.80	14.5	14.19	98.1	45.98	666	100.00
0.0572	0.00	0.357	0.23	2.42	6.13	16.4	14.97	111	51.24	756	100.00
0.0771	0.00	0.405	0.48	2.75	6.50	18.7	15.81	127	56.97	859	100.00



- **SGS Side Stream Sandbox**
- The SGS SandBox FB-300 system is a Proportion-to-Flow pressurized Millipore style filtration device – primarily for oil wells.
- It allows a representative sample of produced sand to be captured at pressure from a liquid sample point. It also incorporates a geared flow meter to allow sample volume calculation so sand rate per volume of live oil can be calculated.
- The unit is rated up to 5000 PSI inlet pressure with an 800 psi Sample Back Pressure and incorporates a primary bypass system allowing a continuous representative sample to be captured.
- All SandBox Integrity is protected by pressure relief valves. The unit is purely mechanical so no Ex-hazards are present and it can be used in all Zoned Areas.
- Acoustic systems for approximation purposes.
  - Used along with ported Genie Probe for representative sampling.

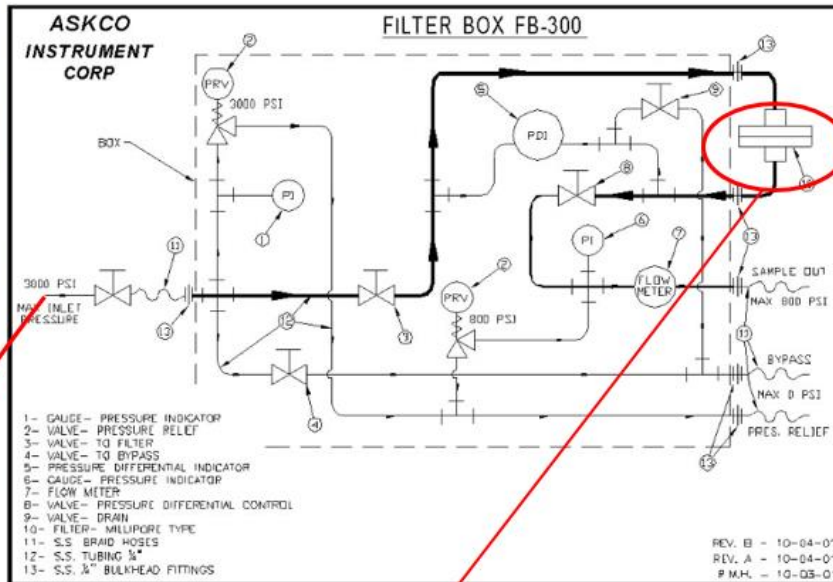


**- IDEALLY USED ALONGSIDE ACOUSTIC SAND METERING SYSTEMS FOR A FULL DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE**





Sampling point



**Remove the filter, weigh the sand**

**Bring the sand to onshore lab for LPSA analysis**

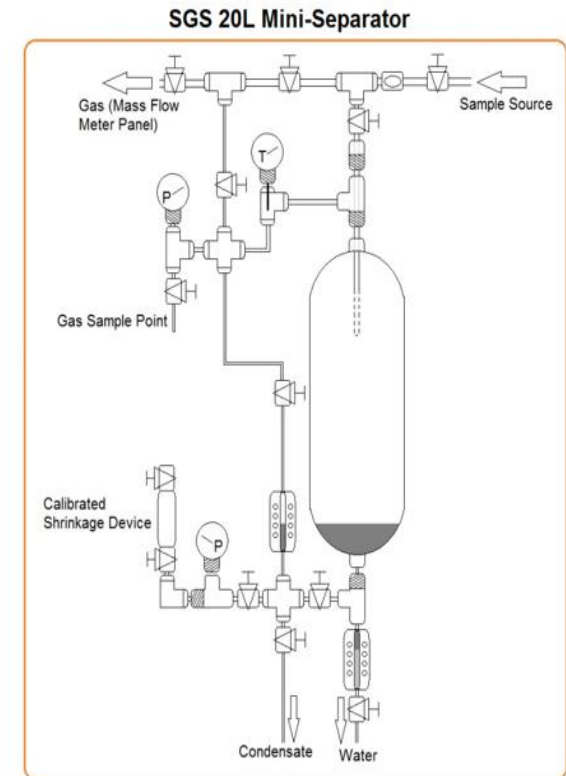


- **SGS Side Stream Sandbox – gas work**
- The Sandbox was modified for gas use by SGS and has been used on multiple projects by combining with a mass flow meter as opposed to a turbine meter.
- What was found however was that without utilizing a sampling probe, it was a challenge to capture any large scale amount of sand. (1 grams or more).
- Example Filter below contained 0.04g of sand. This is insufficient for standard lab analysis for PSD (LPSA) but is sufficient for QEMSCAN derived PSD.
- SGS decided to evaluate other potential sampling methods for gas wells...

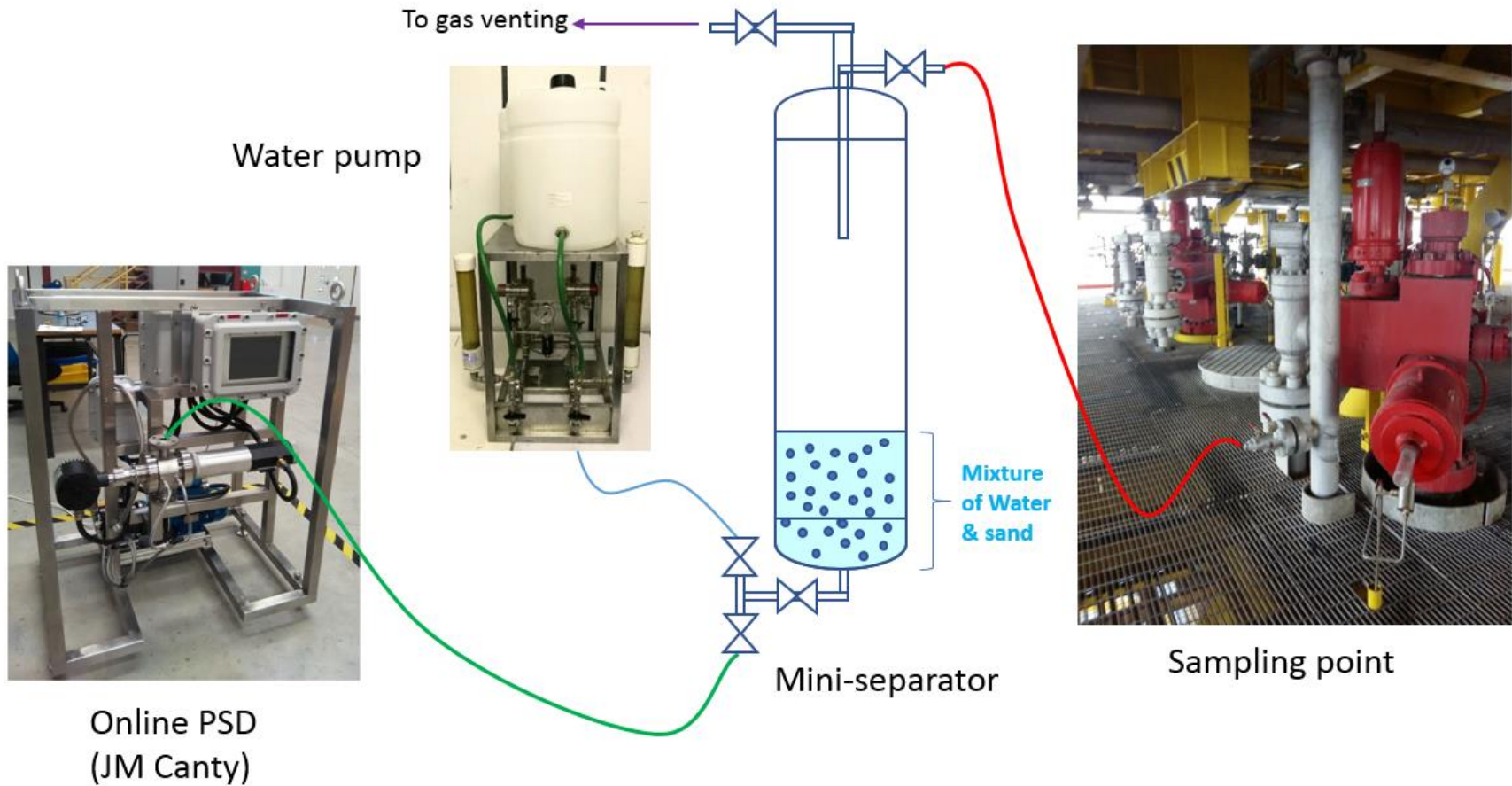


## SGS Side Stream 20L Mini Separator Sampling System

- An alternate conceptual methodology for side stream sampling of sand from gaseous wells involved scrubbing the sand out via slowing the velocity of the particles through a side stream mini separator filled with pre-filtered water.
- Side stream 3 phase mini separator with dual or single sight glasses for level monitoring and visual sand monitoring.
- Extended dipstick to bubble gas through pre-filtered water.
- Used in conjunction with mass flow metering system for gas volume measurement and acoustic sand monitoring system.
- Profiling Possible by repeating at multiple choke sizes.

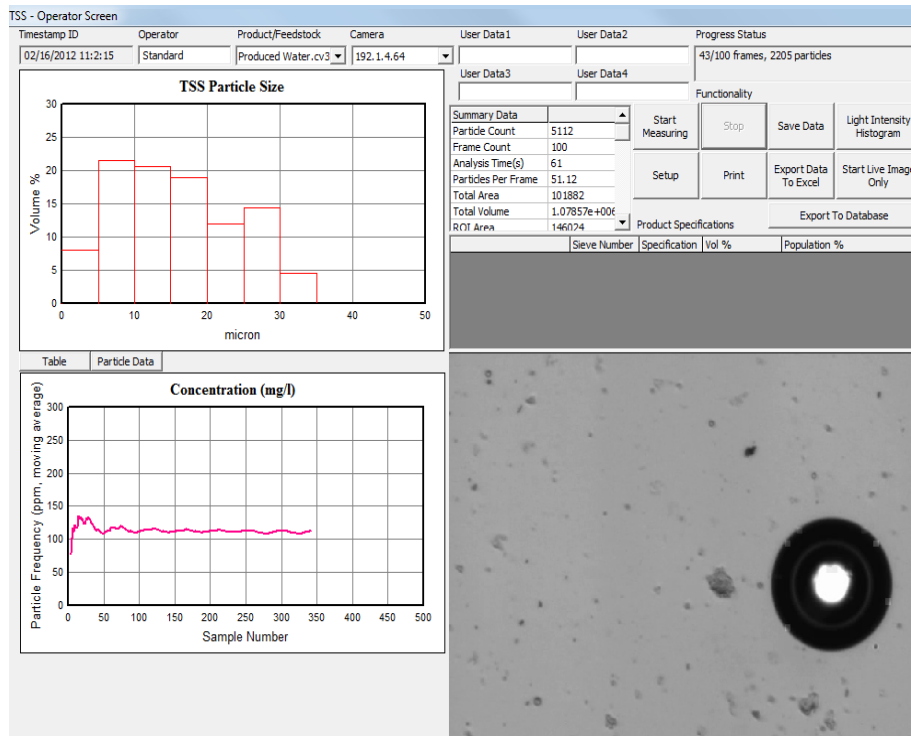


## SETTING UP OF MINI-SEP BASED SIDE-STREAM SAND SYSTEM WITH REALTIME PSD FOR GAS WELLS.





SGS also offer the ability to measure PSD of Sand onsite . This is done via online JM Canty system, or offline using traditional LPSA. For online, realtime PSD results, SGS utilize the JM Canty Online analyzer . JM Canty is vision based technique works on the basic principle of presenting the fluid between a high intensity light source, and microscopic camera. The captured images are then sent to software for analysis, where the suspended particulate (sand, water, oil, gas bubbles etc.) is measured under a number of different parameters to provide size, shape and concentration data. *SGS is currently evaluating JM Canty vs LPSA for PSD work.*



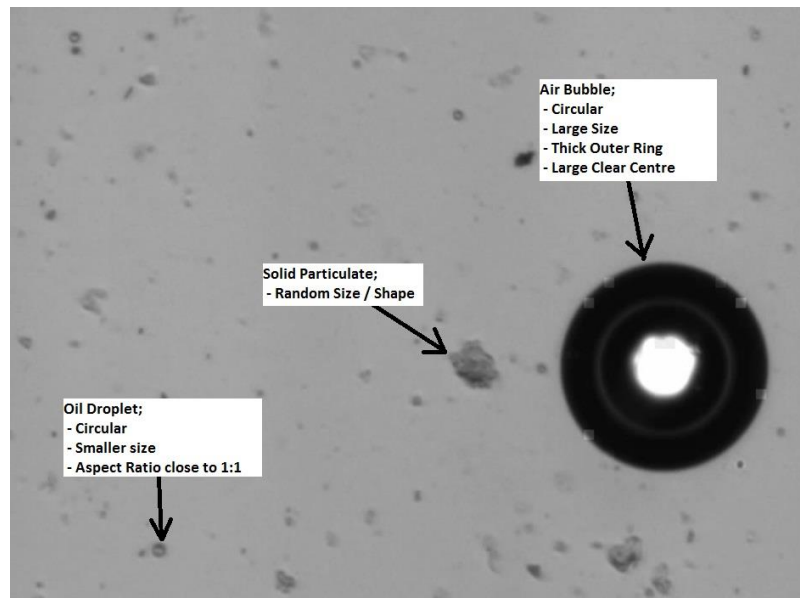
Graphical outputs of particle size distribution and concentration

JM Canty Online Analyzer

# Onsite Analysis – Particle Size Distribution

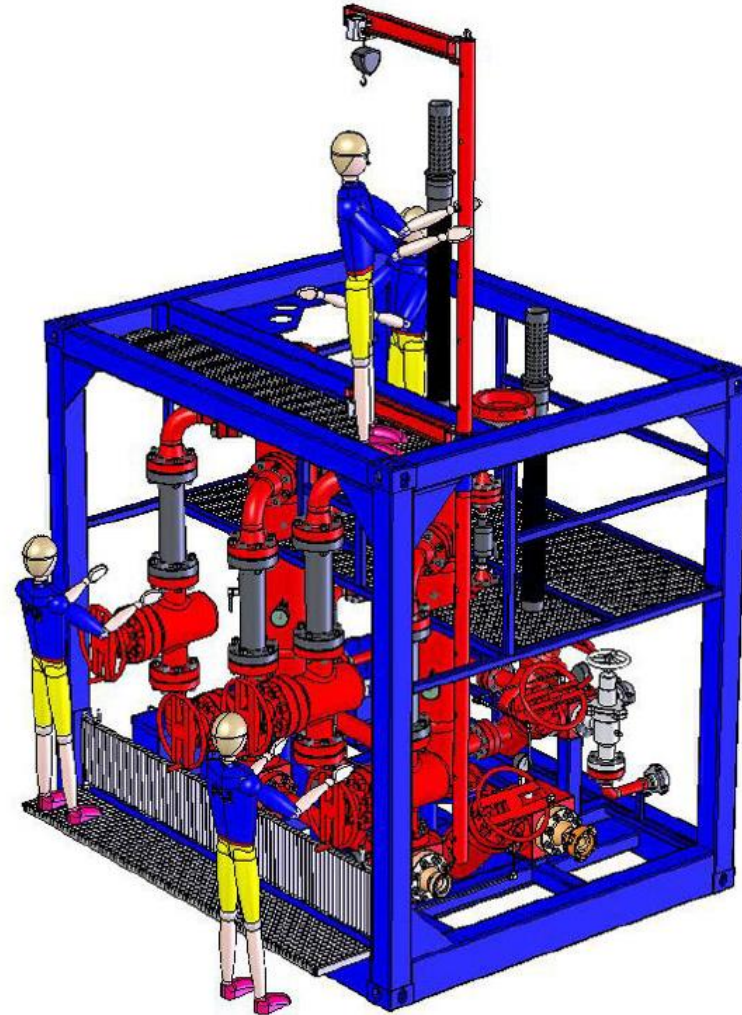
The retrieved images are analysed by the control PC running the Software

- Each particle is analysed under a number of different parameters (major axis, minor axis, area, perimeter, circularity, aspect ratio....)
- Oil droplets have a circularity value and an aspect ratio close 1
- Solid particulate is randomly shaped
- Air bubbles tend to be larger and have a clear centre
- Software filters (size / shape) can be applied so only particles with the characteristics of oil, solids, or air bubbles are individually analysed



## Key features :

- 1600 x 1200 Pixel Array configurable to 0.35 $\mu$ m per Pixel Resolution
- 1/100,000s Shutter Speed
- Particle / Droplet Size to 0.7 $\mu$ m
- Simple RJ45 Network Connection to Control PC







## DUAL POT SAND FILTER

### Process & Operating data

Service	H2S service per NACE MR01-75
Dry gas flow capacity(1)	58 MM scf/day
Liquid flow capacity(1)	9400 bbl/day (@ 400 microns) 5000 bbl/day (@ 200 microns)
Filtration cut-out	200 microns ( 100 $\mu$ to 400 $\mu$ available)
Max differential pressure	1350 psi (2030 psi screen burst pressure)
Vessel capacity (total)	65 litres

1- Under intermittent operation, 10k psi working pressure, 60°F temp., gas sg 0.7 and oil sg 0.85. Consult FCE for flow capacity at anticipated flow conditions.

### Design Data

Design pressure	10000 psi
Design temperature	-29°C to + 121°C (-20°F to +250°F)
Codes of construction	API-6A / ASME VIII guidance / ANSI B31-3

## Sand Sampling in Gas Wells

- Sand Sampling in gas wells poses a difficult challenge without full bore devices.
- It may be possible via a side stream filtration system as discussed – this has yet to be performed.
- It may also be possible to measure PSD at site in near realtime from gas wells. This has abilities to perform profiling of PSD at different production rates. (*Benefits screen evaluation etc*).
- Side Stream Sampling will take time with gas wells – potentially a full 12 hours of sampling may be required to scrub out sufficient sand for measurement.
- Sample Point Suitability is critical
- Gas Sampling should always be done in conjunction with an acoustic metering system to aid in indication of events.
- Acoustic Metering Systems on Gas wells need accurate flow rate data of all phases to work well. Often these wells can be wet gas wells and production data is provided by a WGM. *It is imperative that the WGM providing this data is calibrated and validated (eg Upto date verification via Tracer, uptodate PVT Flash table)*

**WWW.SGS.COM**

Contact us:

[suresh.murugiah@sgs.com](mailto:suresh.murugiah@sgs.com)

WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

