

Cameras for Astronomy

High performance, low maintenance solutions





M42 - The Great Orion Nebula.

M42 is an emission and reflection nebula in the constellation Orion. It is approximately 1,350 lights years from Earth and approximately 25 light years across. Exposures: L:3hrs; R:2 hours; G:2 hours; B:2 hours 10 minutes subs. Total exposure time: 9hrs

Image courtesy of Bill Snyder, Connellsville, Pennsylvania, USA.

Andor's Astronomy Vision

Quality is Paramount

As more and more professional astronomers look for high performance commercial alternatives to time consuming, and ultimately costly, 'build it yourself' model, they are turning to Andor's track record as the leading provider of high-end, exceptional quality camera solutions.

Andor excels at the design and manufacture of robust and hassle-free detector solutions, designed to operate with **low maintenance** and **exceptional longevity** in remote observing sites around the globe.

Example: iKon-XL's Low Maintenance Advantage

Andor's high performance Very Large Area CCD platform, offering TE cooling down to -100°C has been designed with maximum performance, minimal down time and reduced cost of ownership in mind.

NO Liquid nitrogen (LN_2)

Many observatories are in remote locations and in some cases unmanned, making LN_2 at best impractical, at worst impossible. LN_2 cooled cameras require ready access to LN_2 supply and routine top up of LN_2 levels in order to hold temperature, as well as carrying an additional safety concern. The iKon-XL is thermoelectrically cooled to -100°C .

NO Cryo cooler

As many are already painfully aware, cryo coolers are cumbersome and notoriously unreliable. iKon-XL can reach typical cryo-cooled temperatures using only TE cooling and water flow.

NO Vacuum repumping

The sensor enclosure design of the iKon-XL is based on Andor's proven, proprietary UltraVac™ process, which carries a Mean Time Between Failure (MTBF) value of > 100 years! Where other very large area CCD cameras require routine re-pumping, you can expect the iKon-XL to hold firm.

NO Return to base

No shutter is designed or specified for infinite usage. When it finally fails in a remote observing location, the shutter mounting of the iKon-XL has been purposefully designed such that the shutter can be easily replaced by the user on site.

Customer Special Request (CSR)

At Andor, we realize that even our adaptable and flexible 'off-the-shelf' products are sometimes not enough to meet the more demanding application requirements of some our customers.

Our Customer Special Request (CSR) process is a bespoke service for our customers, bringing together highly experienced application specialist and senior engineers who will understand your requirements and provide specific solutions specific to your needs.

Our extensive capabilities, married to our flexible and adaptable approach, complements the highly specific needs that often arise within the field of astronomy.

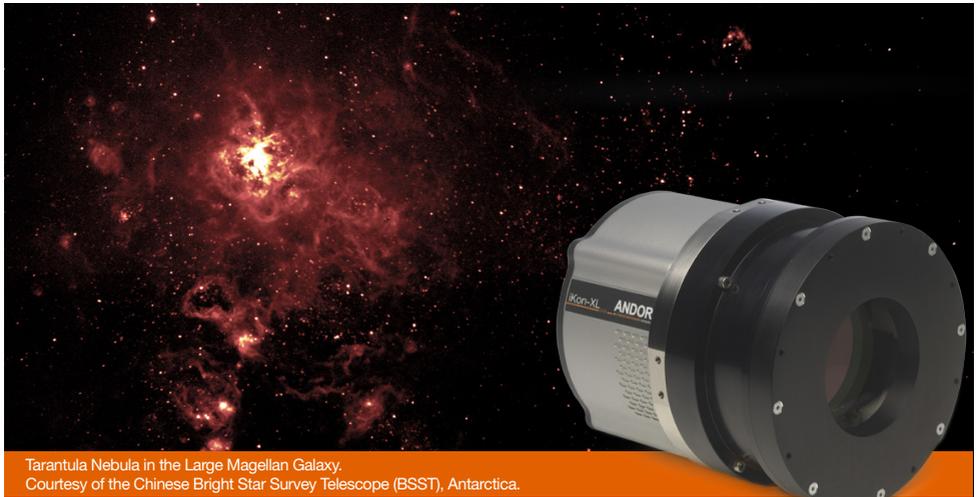
Key Applications

- Solar Astronomy
- Near Earth Objects (NEO)
- Space Debris Tracking
- Photometry
- Transit Exoplanet Detection
- Radial Velocimetry
- Wide Field Spectroscopic Survey
- High Time Resolution Astrophysics
- Adaptive Optics
- Lucky Imaging
- Speckle Imaging

Customization capabilities include:

- Optical distance tailoring
- Custom windows
- Custom readout modes
- Environmental ruggedization

Large Area & High Resolution CCDs



Tarantula Nebula in the Large Magellanic Galaxy.
Courtesy of the Chinese Bright Star Survey Telescope (BSST), Antarctica.

iKon CCD Camera Range

Gone are the days of laborious self-build high-end camera solutions. Andor's unwavering approach to 'off-the-shelf' ultra-high performance has delivered iKon-XL, a new very large area CCD platform that uniquely cools back-illuminated 16.8 megapixel sensors to -100°C with thermoelectric cooling.

iKon-XL also delivers very low read noise, alongside an innovative 18-bit dynamic range mode. iKon-XL is in high demand and is already associated with several high profile observing sites globally, including observatories in China, Antarctica and Russia.

Furthermore, Andor's iKon-L 4 megapixel, -100°C cooled camera has been the mainstay science detector of choice for many installations for well over a decade, including SuperWasp and Next-Generation Transit Survey exoplanet programs.

Apogee CCD Camera Range

Andor's Apogee camera range presents a wide selection of 'mid-range' full frame and interline cooled CCD options, offering high resolution imaging solutions across a variety of budget levels.



Find out more at andor.com/apogee

Key Features

16.8 Megapixel back-illuminated CCDs

TE cooled to -100 °C, with no liquid nitrogen or cryo-cooling

Near Infra-Red optimization

18-bit Extended Dynamic Range technology

Low maintenance design - maximum observing time

Key Applications

Wide field spectroscopic survey

Deep space observation

Exoplanet detection and radial velocimetry

Large sky surveys



Specification sheets
available at
andor.com/ikon

EMCCDs for Fast Time Resolution



3x3 mosaic of the dramatic solar chromosphere. Image courtesy of Kevin Reardon, INAF, Italy.

iXon EMCCD Camera Range

For more than 15 years, Andor's iXon EMCCD cameras have been the high time resolution detectors of choice at a great many cutting edge observatories worldwide.

Featuring single photon sensitivity, TE cooling to -100°C and $>95\%$ QE, the iXon EMCCD range has been central to many demanding observing initiatives, such as the RAVEN 'Multi-Object Adaptive Optics' system at the Subaru Telescope (Hawaii), CHIMERA, the Caltech high speed multi-color camera for detecting transiting objects in the Kuiper Belt and SOFIA, NASA's large-scale airborne observatory.

Key Features

- Single photon sensitivity
- Quantum efficiency $> 95\%$
- Up to 1 Megapixel
- 26 - 56 full frames per second (faster with binning / sub-array)

Key Applications

- Wavefront sensors
- High time resolution astrophysics
- Speckle imaging
- Transit surveys
- Guiding / Stabilization Systems

“ Factor of 100 improvement in Signal to Noise Ratio! We can now successfully guide on $>95\%$ of the fields. ”

Pasquale Temi and E.E. Becklin, SOFIA, NASA



Specification sheets available at andor.com/ixon

sCMOS for Fast Time Resolution



A pulsar emitting a beam of electromagnetic radiation.
Image courtesy of Sarah Michelle.

Neo and Zyla sCMOS Camera Range

Scientific CMOS (sCMOS) technology is especially relevant in fast time resolution astronomy, combining high resolution / large field of view coverage of the sky with very fast time resolution, without sacrificing any of the ultra-low noise performance.

Andor's Neo and Zyla sCMOS cameras have been used successfully in fast time resolution applications such as solar astronomy, Near Earth Object (NEO) detection, space junk tracking, lucky imaging and wavefront sensing.

Key Features

- Extremely low noise down to $0.9 e^-$
- Rapid frame rates up to 100 fps (full frame)
- High resolution up to 5.5 megapixel
- Wide dynamic range up to 33,000:1
- Quantum efficiency up to 82%
- Rolling and Global shutter modes

Key Applications

- Solar astronomy
- NEO detection
- Space debris tracking
- Transit surveys
- Wavefront sensors
- High time resolution astrophysics
- Speckle imaging

Next Generation sCMOS Technology

BALOR

Very Large Area sCMOS

- 16.8 Megapixel
- 12 μm pixel size
- > 60 fps
- < $3 e^-$ noise

Enquire at andor.com/contact for details



Specification sheets
available at
andor.com/scmos

Featured Projects



Next-Generation Transit Survey, Chile

The Next-Generation Transit Survey (NGTS) is a wide-field photometric survey designed to discover transiting exoplanets of Neptune-size and smaller around bright stars (magnitude $V < 13$). NGTS employs an array of

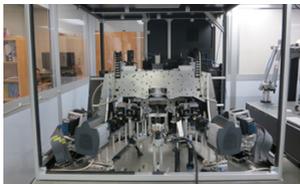
fully-robotic small telescopes operating in the 600-900 nm band, thereby maximizing sensitivity to bright but relatively small and cool host stars (K and early-M spectral type). NGTS is sited at the European Southern

Observatory's Paranal Observatory in Chile, using an array of customized -100°C TE-cooled Andor iKon-L cameras, incorporating NIR optimized back-illuminated 4.2 Megapixel sensors.



SOFIA - NASA and DLR

SOFIA is the world's largest airborne observatory, capable of making observations that are impossible for even the largest and highest ground-based telescopes. SOFIA uses flight-ruggedized iXon 888 EMCCD cameras for both guide stabilization and as the visible science camera.



RAVEN - Victoria, S. Africa

Utilizing multiple single photon sensitive iXon EMCCD cameras operating at hundreds of frames per second, Raven is a Multi-Object Adaptive Optics (MOAO) technical and science demonstrator installed on the, 8m class, Subaru Telescope located at the summit of Mauna Kea in Hawaii.



CHIMERA - Caltech, USA

CHIMERA was primarily developed to enable the characterization of the size distribution of sub-km Kuiper Belt Objects via stellar occultation. Utilizing 1 megapixel iXon 888 EMCCD cameras, the instrument is optimized for monitoring of targets varying on timescales from milliseconds to hours.

Customer Support

Andor products are regularly used in critical applications and we can provide a variety of customer support services to maximize the return on your investment and ensure that your product continues to operate at its optimum performance.

Andor has customer support teams located across North America, Asia and Europe, allowing us to provide local technical assistance and advice. Requests for support can be made at any time by contacting our technical support team at andor.com/support.

Andor offers a variety of support under the following format:

- On-site product specialists can assist you with the installation and commissioning of your chosen product
- Training services can be provided on-site or remotely via the Internet
- A testing service to confirm the integrity and optimize the performance of existing equipment in the field is also available on request.

A range of extended warranty packages are available for Andor products giving you the flexibility to choose one appropriate for your needs. These warranties allow you to obtain additional levels of service and include both on-site and remote support options, and may be purchased on a multi-year basis allowing users to fix their support costs over the operating life cycle of the products.



Head Office

7 Millennium Way
Springvale Business Park
Belfast BT12 7AL
Northern Ireland
Tel: +44 (0)28 9023 7126
Fax: +44 (0)28 9031 0792

North America

300 Baker Avenue
Suite 150
Concord, MA 01742
USA
Tel: +1 860-290-9211
Fax: +1 860-290-9566

Japan

5F IS Building
3-32-42 Higashi-Shinagawa
Tokyo 140-0002
Japan
Tel: +81-(0)3-6732-8968
Fax: +81-(0)3-6732-8939

China

Unit 1, Building A,
Qing He Shun Shi Jia Ye
Pioneer Park,
No. 66 Zhu Fang Road,
Haidian District,
Beijing 100085
P. R. China
Tel: +86 (0)10-5129-4977
Fax: +86 (0)10-6445-5401

Find us on

