



Multiple stereo microscope order placed by an engineering school in France



The new Nikon Metrology SMZ745 series binocular microscopes installed in a dedicated workroom at ENSEGID within the University of Bordeaux to assist with practical geological and environmental teaching and study.

Part of the University of Bordeaux, the Ecole Nationale Supérieure en Environnement, Géoresources et Ingénierie du Développement durable (ENSEGID) is one of the eight public engineering schools based on the Talence campus in south-west France. Having had a long and successful association with the microscope manufacturer and supplier, Nikon Metrology, the school recently returned to the global company's subsidiary in Lisses, near Paris, to replace a number of ageing binocular microscopes with a new suite of up-to-date instruments.

The school, which specialises in teaching students about sustainable research into the environment and georesources, selected and purchased six Nikon SMZ745 microscopes to enable students to further their practical geological studies together with one SMZ745T video port model which is used for instruction. They are helping to train versatile engineers to manage the Earth's natural resources responsibly. Many graduates go on to work in hydrogeology, environmental risk management, oil, gas and other extractive industries, soil pollution and waste management, recycling and secure storage.

Serge Galaup, the research engineer responsible for teaching first-year students at ENSEGID said, "Our activities are twofold - research into

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Serge Galaup, the research engineer at ENSEGID

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the environment and teaching geology and the environment from level BAC +3 to BAC +5 (from three to five years after passing the French baccalaureate exam)."

"In terms of microscopy, we need to study a lot of thin sections of rocks as well as look at natural geological and biological objects. To complete their courses and obtain a Masters degree, our students need to become skilled at using a range of scientific and technical tools."

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of practical teaching. The training provided after installation was comprehensive and enabled early utilisation of the equipment."

He explained that the university is required to go through a process of tendering before acquisition of capital equipment, which was duly completed. The Nikon microscopes selected proved to be the best value for money. He describes them as very functional and perfectly adapted to the department's requirements of in terms of their compact footprint on the bench, robustness and technical capability.

SMZ745 and 745T stereo microscopes have powerful image resolving capabilities. Featuring a zoom magnification ratio of 7.5:1 providing a potential magnification range from 3.35x to 300x, and with a standard long working distance of 115 mm, the latest models incorporate a new reflection prism that produces brighter images with stronger contrast. The SMZ-745T trinocular model is equipped with a microscope video imaging port as a built-in camera adapter, permitting direct attachment of a Nikon digital camera. The microscopes are also ergonomic to use, with a zoom control equipped with a selectable click stop option for each magnification step.