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lenses, and physical properties such as viscosity, molecular weight and particle size.

Before this, such measurements were taken offline, says [Matthew Oleskiw](#), marketing manager at [UTEX](#). "You would take a sample from the process, run it to the lab--of course it's curing all the while--and then put it into the lab equipment to measure."

Inline monitoring of a production process using the UPA system means real-time information can be used to adjust process controls faster. This reduction in testing time, and improvement of the accuracy of the measurements, means that product quality improves while costs due to production waste go down.

[UTEX](#) and other nondestructive equipment manufacturers believe that many companies don't think of nondestructive methodologies like ultrasonics when considering measurement equipment. For instance, noncontact form and density measurements can be taken on contact lenses while they're curing.

"There's a lot that we can offer," says [Oleskiw](#). "We need to open the realm of how NDT and metrology fit together."

#### More choices

The demand for tighter tolerances and networkability has driven metrology companies to design equipment that measures faster with ever-increasing accuracy and communicates more easily with the manufacturing environment. As traditional technologies like touch probes continue to evolve and newer technologies such as ultrasound, interferometry, laser, radar and vision become faster and more accurate, the applicability of these technologies increasingly overlap, giving users more options when selecting metrology equipment. Now more than ever, users can select from among several technologies to find measuring equipment that meets their specific needs of accuracy, throughput and cost.

[About the author](#)