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Precise Measurement of the Moisture and the Composition of Materials with State-Of-the-Art TRIME® Radar Technology.

The new dimension to quality control – just as efficient as it is economic!

Measuring what others can't!

SONO Moisture Sensors for industrial Deployment

Increased safety and reduced damage-related costs due to novel evaluation methods at the quality control.

Since its foundation in 1984, IMKO has successfully established itself as a manufacturer of trendsetting high-tech products in the sector environmental sensor technology. IMKO develops, produces and distributes innovative measuring technology and sensors for the precise acquisition of various physical parameters in the sector environmental measuring technology as well as material moisture measurement for online and offline applications within process measuring technology.

With the novel SONO sensors, IMKO is presenting a new generation of moisture sensors. They were especially designed to meet the demands of the building and food industry but can also be deployed in other industries. The sensors' decisive lead is generated by the deployment of state-of-the-art TRIME[®] radar technology.



SONO-SILO



SONO-SILO PTFE



SONO-MOVE Carbid



SONO-MIX



SONO-MOVE PTFE



SONO-VARIO Standard

The quality of fresh concrete is the decisive factor for the stability and durability of concrete constructions. Inferior concrete quality inflicts immense damage worldwide. Parameters, such as moisture, cement content, and slope are hereby the decisive factors. Only if they are controlled, can an ideal quality be warranted on a long term basis. The new SONO sensors make it easier than ever to warrant for high safety standards economically and without loss of time.

SONO sensors precisely measure the water content up to the point of material saturation and beyond via an electro-magnetic TDR pulse with 1-GHzfrequency. In addition, it is possible to establish valuable information regarding the mineral composition and consistence of the measured material. It is possible to integrate SONO sensors into a wide array of various industrial plant types and to connect it to all existing control systems.

Convincing Advantages for

- The building industry (e.g. for the precise determination of the quality of concrete directly in the mixer)
- The handling of bulk goods (e.g. for the consistent inline-measuring of the moisture content of wood chips, pellets, animal food etc.)
- The glass and ceramics industry (e.g. silica sand, moulding sand, ceramics mass etc)
- The chemical and pharmaceutical industry (e.g. powders, granulates etc.)



Exact Moisture Values and Material Composition with RbC

In addition to the precise measurement of moisture, it is also possible to determine the radar-based conductivity (RbC - Radar based Conductance) with SONO sensors. RbC gives information to important parameters of the respective material composition, e.g. in respect to the cement content or the slope of fresh concrete. This represents a significant improvement of the guality control already directly in the process even if the water and the sand are charged with conductive minerals.

Highest Reliability

In comparison to Microwave probes, SONO probes provide accurate measurement values even when aggregates are exposed to steam in winter and where the sand and the gravel feature differing grain sizes.

Auto-Compensation

Even in the event of abrasion at the probe head, the automatic measurement compensation enables significantly longer operating periods without the necessity of recalibration.

Integrated Evaluation and Highest Measuring Accuracy

SONO-sensors are equipped with intelligent microprocessors. The signal evaluation is already conducted in the sensor itself and consequently, in most cases, there is no longer the necessity for external evaluation devices. It is possible to store up to 15 calibration curves in the sensor. Adjustable mean value accumulation and filter algorithms ensure measurement accuracies of up to +-0.1%.

Simple Configuration and Interface for Network Operation

The software SONO-CONFIG enables the easy configuration of the sensor parameters such as the measurement range, smooth mean value accumulation, analogue output 0(4)..20 mA, calibration selection, and many other parameters. The RS485 interface enables network operation of SONO sensors. Upon request, SONO sensors which can be connected to industrial buses such as Profibus, Ethernet etc. via external modules are also available.

Competent Consultancy – Reliable Service

Reaching from the selection of the ideally suited sensor, over to the customisation to special applications, right up to the maintenance and service, IMKO or your IMKO partner will be there to assist you at all times. We are just as individual and flexible as our products.

SONO-MIX: The new Concrete Sensor – Measures directly in the Mixer

Highest accuracy at the measurement of moisture and material composition in fresh concrete – directly in the mixer using state-of-the-art RbC technology.



The accurate low-cost solution for:

- The Building Industry
- Bulk Material Handling

Exchangeable especially wearresistant sensor head: hardened special steel with highly wear resistant ceramic window.

Higher safety at the production of fresh concrete due moisture as well as the radar-based conductance (RbC – Radar based Conductance) up to 50dS/m. RbC enables conclusions regarding further parameters of the material recipe such as the cement content and the slope of fresh concrete with the effect of a more reliable quality control and higher cost-effectiveness because recipe errors are prevented.

The novel and very robust sensor head (15 mm thick) consists of wear-resistant hardened steel with a rectangular ceramic window. It is fastened with 4 screws and can easily be exchanged. Even in the event of abrasion at the probe head, the automatic measurement compensation enables significantly longer operating periods without the necessity of recalibration.

The intelligent pre-processing of the measurement values with smooth mean value accumulation, adjustable filters, and the storage of up to 15 calibration curves for the calibration which is already conducted in the sensor itself. Usually, external evaluation devices are not required.

W Two variably adjustable analogue outputs 0(4)...20mA enable the easy connection to any control system.

A RS485 interface enables the network operation of the sensor. It already contains a data bus protocol for the connection of several SONO sensors. The connection of the sensor to industrial buses such as Profibus, Ethernet, etc. is possible via optional external modules (available upon request).



TECHNICAL DATA SONO-MIX

SENSOR DESIGN

Casing: High Grade Steel V2A 1.4301 Exchangeable especially wear-resistant sensor head: hardened special steel with highly wear resistant ceramic window. *Available upon request:* Version for applications with most extreme abrasion.

MEASUREMENT RANGE MOISTURE

The sensor measures from 0% up to the point of material saturation. Measurement ranges up to 90% moisture are possible with a material specific calibration. The sensor, as a material-specific characteristic value, delivers in respect to the cement content or the slope of fresh concrete, the radar-based conductance (RbC – Radar-based-Conductance) in a range of 0...50dS/m. The conductivity range is reduced in measurement ranges >50%.

MEASUREMENT RANGE TEMPERATURE

Measurement Range: 0°C ... 100°C

The temperature is measured at the sensor casing beneath the wear-resistant sensor head and can optionally be issued at the analogue output 2. The material temperature can be measured with an external calibration and compensation of the smooth mean value accumulation including filtering with accuracies of up to 0.1%. **MEASUREMENT MODE CF:** For slow measurement operations with the option of the smooth mean value accumulation including filtering with accuracies of up to 0.1%.

POWER SUPPLY

+7V to +30V DC, 1,5 W max. SIGNAL OUTPUT

2 x Analogue Outputs 0(4)...20mA Output 1: Moisture in % (variably adjustable)

Output 2: Conductivity (RbC) or optionally the temperature.

In addition, there is the option to split the analogue output 2 into two ranges, into 4..11mA for the temperature and 12..20mA for the conductivity. The analogue output 2 hereby changes over in 5 second cycles between these two (current) measurement windows.

The two analogue outputs can be variably aligned with the SONO-CONFIG software. For a 0-10V DC voltage output, a 500R resistor can be installed.

COMMUNICATION

A RS485 interface enables network operation of the sensor, whereby a data bus protocol for the connection of several SONO sensors to the RS485 is implemented by default. The connection of the sensor to industrial buses such as Profibus, Ethernet, etc. is possible via optional external modules (available upon request).

MEASUREMENT FIELD EXPANSION

Approximately 50 - 80 mm, depending on material and moisture.

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SONO-MIX moisture probe installed into a mixing pan bottom.

MOUNTING

Sensor Dimensions: 108 x 132mm (Diameter x Length)

The mounting and fastening frame can be mounted to the rear side of the mixer base or the outer wall of the mixer. For this purpose, it is adjusted with the help of the additional welded on mounting frame. This enables the easy mounting and dismounting as well as the adjustment of the sensor position in case of wear at the mixer base.

MEASUREMENT RANGE CONDUCTIVITY

MEASUREMENT DATA-PREPROCESSING

MEASUREMENT MODE CK: (Standard Setting) Dynamic filter with accuracies of up to 0.1%.

MEASUREMENT MODE CS: For fast measurement operations (without averaging) with up to 100 internal measurements per second and with a cycle time of 200 milliseconds at the analogue output.

AMBIENT CONDITIONS

0 - 70°C; A higher temperature range is available upon request!

CALIBRATION

The sensor is provided with a universal calibration. A maximum of 15 different calibrations can be stored. For special materials, variable calibrations with polynomials up to the 5th order are possible and can be downloaded into the sensor with the SONO-CONFIG software (Download per Internet). A zero point correction can be performed easily with the SONO-CONFIG software.

SONO-VARIO: The Universal Moisture Sensor featuring RbC

Precise moisture and temperature measuring for bulk materials – also suited for applications which conventional capacitive sensors can not handle. Ideal for the integration into containers, hoppers and silos.



SONO-VARIO Standard is suited for measuring of abrasive materials. The probe head consists of stainless steel with a rectangular ceramic window.

Long-term stable moisture measurement

SONO-VARIO measures the moisture of 2/8 gravel on the silo discharge.

Install the SONO-VARIO in the silo and measuring long-term stable the moisture.



- Higher reliability at the moisture measurement in sand and other complex materials. The TRIME-technology guarantees precise measurements even under difficult conditions (e.g., if water and sand are charged with minerals with up to 12dS/m pore water conductivity). The additionally measured radar-based conductance (RbC Radar based Conductance) enables conclusions regarding further parameters of the material recipe. For you, this has the following effect: improved quality control, more safety and less recipe errors.
- **Highest Reliability** in comparison to Microwave probes, SONO probes provide accurate measurement values even when aggregates are exposed to steam in winter and where the sand and the gravel feature differing grain sizes.
- Even in the event of abrasion at the probe head, the automatic measurement compensation enables significantly longer operating periods without the necessity of recalibration.
- **The intelligent pre-processing of the measurement values** featuring smooth mean value accumulation, adjustable filters, and up to 15 calibration curves for the calibration which is already conducted in the sensor itself. Usually, external evaluation devices are not required.
- **W** Two variably adjustable analogue outputs 0(4)...20mA allow for the easy connection to any currently existing control system.
- A RS485 interface enables network operation of the sensor. It already contains a data bus protocol for the connection of several SONO sensors. The connection of the sensor to industrial buses such as Profibus, Ethernet, etc. is possible via optional external modules (available upon request).



TECHNICAL DATA SONO-VARIO

SENSOR DESIGN

Casing: High Grade Steel V2A 1.4301

SONO-VARIO Standard: The surface consists of highly abrasion-resistant aluminium oxide ceramic.

MEASUREMENT RANGE MOISTURE

The sensor measures from 0% up to the point of material saturation. Measurement ranges up to 90% moisture are possible with a material specific calibration.

MEASUREMENT RANGE TEMPERATURE

Measurement Range: 0°C ... 100°C

The temperature is measured at the ceramic disc inside the sensor casing and is issued at the analogue output 2. The material temperature can be measured with an external calibration and compensation of the sensor intrinsic-heating.

POWER SUPPLY

+7V to +30V DC, 1,5 W max.

SIGNAL OUTPUT

2 x Analogue Outputs 0(4)...20mA

Output 1: Moisture in % (variably adjustable)

Output 2: Conductivity (RbC) or optionally the temperature.

In addition, there is the option to split the analogue output 2 into two ranges: into 4..11mA for the temperature and 12..20mA for the conductivity. The analogue output 2 hereby changes over into an adjustable one-second cycle between these two (current) measurement windows.

The two analogue outputs can be variably aligned with the SONO-CONFIG software. For a 0-10V DC voltage output, a 500R resistor can be installed.

COMMUNICATION

A RS485 interface enables network operation of the sensor, whereby a data bus protocol for the connection of several SONO sensors to the RS485 is implemented by default. The connection of the sensor to industrial buses such as Profibus, Ethernet, etc. is possible via optional external modules (available upon request).

MEASUREMENT FIELD EXPANSION

Approximately 50 - 80 mm, depending on material and moisture.

MOUNTING

SONO-VARIO Standard: 108 x 45mm (Diameter x Length)

MEASUREMENT RANGE CONDUCTIVITY

The sensor, as a material-specific characteristic value, delivers the radar-based conductance (RbC – Radar-based-Conductance) in a range of 0...12dS/m. The conductivity range is reduced in measurement ranges >50%.

MEASUREMENT DATA-PREPROCESSING

MEASUREMENT MODE CF: For slow measurement operations with the option of the smooth mean value accumulation including filtering with accuracies of up to 0.1%.

MEASUREMENT MODE CS: For fast measurement operations (without averaging) with up to 100 internal measurements per second and with a cycle time of 200 milliseconds at the analogue output.

AMBIENT CONDITIONS

0 - 70°C; A higher temperature range is available upon request!

CALIBRATION

The sensor is provided with a universal calibration. A maximum of 15 different calibrations can be stored. For special materials, variable calibrations with polynomials up to the 5th order are possible and can be downloaded into the sensor with the SONO-CONFIG software (Download per Internet). A zero point correction can be performed easily with the SONO-CONFIG software.

SONO-SILO: The reliable Silo Sensor with RbC

The exact measurement of moisture even in bulk materials with higher mineral content which dispose of a pore water conductivity of up to 12dS/m - the quality guarantee where conventional capacitive sensors either fail or deliver unreliable values.

SONO-SILO is available in three versions for installation into containers, hoppers, silos, dryers and mixers:

- **SONO-SILO Standard** for abrasive materials. The probe head consists of stainless steel with a rectangular ceramic window.
- **SONO-SILO Concrete** for fresh concrete in intensive mixers. The probe head consists of hardened steel with a rectangular ceramic window.

SONO-SILO PTFE for highly adhesive materials such as calcerous lime sand, suspension or powder. The probe head is made of PTFE and thus providing best possible non-adhesive properties.

SONO-SILO Standard

SONO-SILO PTFE

The TRIME technology ensures safe measurements even under difficult conditions, e.g. if the bulk material contains conductive elements with up to 12dS/m pore water conductivity. The radar-based evaluation of the conductance (RbC – Radar based Conductance) enables to establish the mineral content in the measured material and consequently ensures an improved guality control.

The sensor head and the electronics dispose of a modular construction. In case of a mechanical break down of the sensor head, the same can be exchanged easily. The existing SONO electronics remain unaffected.

Even in the event of abrasion at the probe head, the automatic measurement compensation enables significantly longer operating periods without the necessity of recalibration.

The intelligent pre-processing of the measurement values featuring smooth mean value accumulation, adjustable filters, and up to 15 calibration curves for the calibration which is already conducted in the sensor itself. Usually, external evaluation devices are not required.

Two variably adjustable analogue outputs 0(4)...20mA allow for the easy connection to any currently existing control system.

A RS485 interface enables network operation of the sensor. It already contains a data bus protocol for the connection of several SONO sensors. The connection of the sensor to industrial buses such as Profibus, Ethernet, etc. is possible via optional external modules (available upon request).



TECHNICAL DATA SONO-SILO

SENSOR DESIGN SONO-SILO Standard: Casing Probe: High Grade Steel V2A 1.4301 and highly abrasion-resistant aluminium oxide ceramic. SONO-SILO Concrete: Casing Probe: Hardened Steel and highly abrasion-resistant aluminium oxide ceramic. SONO-SILO PTFE: Casing Probe: Anti-adhesive PTFE

Casing Electronic Head: High Grade Steel V2A 1.4301

MEASUREMENT RANGE MOISTURE

The sensor measures from 0% up to the point of material saturation. Measurement ranges up to 90% moisture are possible with a material specific calibration. The sensor, as a material-specific characteristic value, delivers the radar-based conductance (RbC – Radar-based-Conductance).

MEASUREMENT FIELD EXPANSION

Approximately 50 - 80 mm, depending on material and moisture.

POWER SUPPLY

+7V to +30V DC, 1,5 W max.

SIGNAL OUTPUT

2 x Analogue Outputs 0(4)...20mA Output 1: Moisture in % (variably adjustable) Output 2: Conductivity (RbC)

The two analogue outputs can be variably aligned with the SONO-CONFIG software. For a 0-10V DC voltage output, a 500R resistor can be installed.

COMMUNICATION

A RS485 interface enables network operation of the sensor, whereby a data bus protocol for the connection of several SONO sensors to the RS485 is implemented by default. The connection of the sensor to industrial buses such as Profibus, Ethernet, etc. is possible via optional external modules (available upon request).

MOUNTING

Sensor Dimensions: 55 x 350mm (Diameter x Length)

The sensor can be installed into silos with tube extensions. The length of the tube extension is dependent on the installation facility. The mounting flange can be screwed on to the rear side of any silo, container or hopper.

A pivot-retainer for the installation into a silo is available on request!

A gas- and waterproofed tube fitting is available on request!

MEASUREMENT RANGE CONDUCTIVITY

SONO-SILO Standard and PTFE: 0..12dS/m conductivity

SONO-SILO Concrete: 0...40dS/m conductivity

The conductivity range is reduced in measurement ranges >50%.

MEASUREMENT DATA-PREPROCESSING

MEASUREMENT MODE CF: For slow measurement operations with the option of the smooth mean value accumulation including filtering with accuracies of up to 0.1%.

MEASUREMENT MODE CS: For fast measurement operations (without averaging) with up to 100 internal measurements per second and with a cycle time of 200 milliseconds at the analogue output.

AMBIENT CONDITIONS

0 - 70°C; A higher temperature range is available upon request!

CALIBRATION

The sensor is provided with a universal calibration. A maximum of 15 different calibrations can be stored. For special materials, variable calibrations with polynomials up to the 5th order are possible and can be downloaded into the sensor with the SONO-CONFIG software (Download per Internet). A zero point correction can be performed easily with the SONO-CONFIG software.

SONO-MOVE: The new Sensor for direct measurements in moved materials

Precise moisture measurements – directly on conveyors and in silos, containers and hoppers.



SONO-MOVE is available in two versions:

- SONO-MOVE Carbid for highly abrasive materials. The novel probe head consists of highly abrasion-resistant Wolfram Carbide with a rectangular ceramic window. The material on the conveyor belt is affected only slightly with the wedge-shaped structure at only 12mm thickness of the probe.
- **SONO-MOVE PTFE** for highly adhesive materials such as calcerous lime sand or powder. The probe head is completely made of PTFE and thus providing best possible non-adhesive properties.

SONO-MOVE Carbid

SONO-MOVE PTFE

The novel probe head consists of Wolfram-Carbide and a very wear-resistant ceramic in life-span of the probe. Thanks to the Wedge-shaped structure and at only 12mm thickness the conveyor belt is only slightly affected.

order to warrant for a long of the probe the flow of the material on

Y The sensor head and the electronics dispose of a modular construction. In case of a mechanical break down of the sensor head, the same can be exchanged easily. The existing SONO electronics remain unaffected.

Even in the event of abrasion at the probe head, the automatic measurement compensation enables significantly longer operating periods without the necessity of recalibration.

The TRIME technology ensures safe measurements even under difficult conditions, e.g. if the bulk material contains conductive elements with up to 12dS/m pore water conductivity. The radar-based evaluation of the conductance (RbC - Radar based Conductance) enables to establish the mineral content in the measured material and consequently ensures an improved quality control.

The intelligent pre-processing of the measurement values featuring smooth mean value accumulation, adjustable filters, and up to 15 calibration curves for the calibration which is already conducted in the sensor itself. Usually, external evaluation devices are not required.

🖌 A RS485 interface enables network operation of the sensor. It already contains a data bus protocol for the connection of several SONO sensors. The connection of the sensor to industrial buses such as Profibus, Ethernet, etc. is possible via optional external modules (available upon request).



TECHNICAL DATA SONO-MOVE

SENSOR DESIGN

Casing SONO-MOVE Carbide: Wolfram Carbide and highly abrasion-resistant aluminium oxide ceramic.

Casing SONO-MOVE PTFE: Anti-adhesive PTFE

Casing Electronic Head: High Grade Steel V2A 1.4301

MEASUREMENT RANGE MOISTURE

The sensor measures from 0% up to the point of material saturation. Measurement The sensor, as a material-specific characteristic value, delivers the radar-based ranges up to 90% moisture are possible with a material specific calibration. conductance (RbC - Radar-based-Conductance) in a range of 0...12dS/m. The conductivity range is reduced in measurement ranges >50%.

MEASUREMENT FIELD EXPANSION

Approximately 50 - 80 mm, depending on material and moisture.

POWER SUPPLY

+7V to +30V DC, 1,5 W max.

SIGNAL OUTPUT

2 x Analogue Outputs 0(4)...20mA

Output 1: Moisture in % (0..20%, variably adjustable) Output 2: Conductivity (RbC) 0..20dS/m

The two analogue outputs can be variably aligned with the SONO-CONFIG software. For a 0-10V DC voltage output, a 500R resistor can be installed.

COMMUNICATION

A RS485 interface enables network operation of the sensor, whereby a data The sensor is equipped with a robust 10-pole MIL flange connector. Ready made bus protocol for the connection of several SONO sensors to the RS485 is connection cables with MIL connectors are available in the lengths 4m, 10m, or implemented by default. The connection of the sensor to industrial buses such 25 m. as Profibus, Ethernet, etc. is possible via optional external modules (available upon request)

D Λ **S T E C**

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MOUNTING

SONO-MOVE Carbide:

- Probe head dimensions: 140 x 110 x 12mm (length x height x width). SONO-MOVE PTFE:
- Probe head dimensions: 145 x 180 x 40mm (length x height x width).
- Electronic Head: 40 x 300mm (diameter x height).
- The probe can be fixed with a bracket on a conveyor belt.

MEASUREMENT RANGE CONDUCTIVITY

MEASUREMENT DATA-PREPROCESSING

MEASUREMENT MODE CF: For slow measurement operations with the option of the smooth mean value accumulation including filtering with accuracies of up to 0.1%.

MEASUREMENT MODE CS: For fast measurement operations (without averaging) with up to 100 internal measurements per second and with a cycle time of 200 milliseconds at the analogue output.

AMBIENT CONDITIONS

0 - 70°C; A higher temperature range is available upon request!

CALIBRATION

The sensor is provided with a universal calibration. A maximum of 15 different calibrations can be stored. For special materials, variable calibrations with polynomials up to the 5th order are possible and can be downloaded into the sensor with the SONO-CONFIG software (Download per Internet). A zero point correction can be performed easily with the SONO-CONFIG software.

Improved Quality Controls – More Safety– Improved Cost-Effectiveness

The novel and innovative TRIME[®] measuring method at the SONO sensors, in addition to the moisture value, also delivers a radar-based conductance value (RbC – Radar based Conductance). This enables conclusions regarding further parameters of a material recipe such as the cement content and the slump of fresh concrete with the effect that cost-intensive quality faults are avoided.

TRIME®-TDR – Recipient of many Awards

Innovation prizes such as the Eberle-Prize of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg (1993) and the Silver Medal of the German Agricultural Society (DLG – 1999) give evidence on how successfully the high-tech potential of the TRIME®-TDR-technology has distinguished itself in practice. Numerous industrial and scientific projects confirm the advantages of the TRIME®-technology which by now has excellently performed under difficult conditions for 10 years at temperatures of up to 150°C and in application scenarios where other measuring systems failed to perform. You can find further information regarding the benefits of the TRIME®-TDR, in comparison to moisture measurements conducted on the basis of conventional capacitive methods or microwave technology, on our homepage www.imko.de under the topic "About TRIME-TDR".



Silver Medal Innovation Award 1999 of the DLG (German Agricultural Society)



Innovation Award of the State of Baden-Württemberg



certified by the DLG (German Agricultural Society)



Intelligent Sensors for Maximum Flexibility

A high-capacity microprocessor already performs the signal evaluation in the sensor itself. For most applications, external evaluation devices are consequently no longer necessary. In case of fast material flow, SONO sensors internally measure at a rate of 100 measurements per second and at an output cycle of 200ms. At the deployment in mixers, a sophisticated filter algorithm, as well as a smooth mean value accumulation, ensure precise measurement values with an accuracy of up to 0,1%. SONO sensors are able to detect faulty measurement values caused by rotating mixer blades and directly filter out the same. Every sensor is able to store up to 15 calibration curves with polynomials up to the 5th order. If required, the sensors can be easily and comfortably aligned to handle a wide array of tasks with the SONO-CONFIG software.

Highest Reliability due to Auto-Compensation

Conventional sensors deliver falsified measurement values, if the ceramic plate is exposed to wear and a cyclic recalibration is not conducted. SONO sensors are able to maintain their high accuracy over a long period of time. Even in the event of abrasion at the probe head, the automatic measurement compensation enables significantly longer operating periods without the necessity of recalibration. In comparison to Microwave probes, SONO probes provide accurate measurement values even when aggregates are exposed to steam in winter and where the sand and the gravel feature differing grain sizes.

