

THE THIRD PRODUCT LAUNCH IN THREE WEEKS: LUFFT BRINGS SHM31 LASER-BASED SNOW DEPTH SENSOR ONTO THE MARKET



Mounted SHM31 snow depth sensor

A new measuring tool for meteorological services, airports, road maintenance depots, and ski resorts, as well as for the generation of renewable energy, is now available from Lufft: the SHM31 measures snow depths of up to 15 metres in mere seconds. It is the successor to the tried-and-trusted SHM30, which Jenoptik launched on the market in mid-2009. Since 2014, SHM30 has been a fixed part of Lufft's range of optical sensors.

What makes the innovative SHM31 different from its predecessor, the SHM30?

Some new features of the Lufft SHM31 snow depth sensor include, in particular, the different communication interfaces, which make the sensor fully compatible with Lufft's UMB standards. In addition, the sensor has an integrated window heater for the entry and exit points of the laser beam, as well as an in-built protractor for simple assembly.

The sensor is fitted with the RS232, RD485 and SDI-12 communication interfaces. Two of these can be used in parallel. The amount of energy required has been reduced - despite the expanded, two-stage heating function. This latter feature ensures that measurements are not affected by even the most extreme weather conditions such as snowstorms or sudden cold spells.

Laser-based technology

The snow-depth sensor is based on an opto-electronic laser distance-measuring tool, and works with a visible measuring beam that is easy to configure. It recognises layers of snow of up to 15 metres on natural, diffusely reflective surfaces. Measurements are accurate down to a few millimetres. Additionally, the integrated evaluation of signal intensity enables reflectivity to be assessed, and the base surface to be differentiated from the snow.

The optical measurement principle is not affected by temperature fluctuations, and, in conjunction with improved accuracy, has an advantage over traditional ultrasonic sensors. The way the intelligent sensor operates can even compensate for temporary impairments of the measuring process as a result of precipitation.

Maintenance-free operation

Thanks to the robust casing, with IP68 certification, and the SHM31's intelligent operating principle, no maintenance is required. Consequently, there is no need to replace drying agents or perform regular calibrations. However, Lufft does offer a set of measuring plates to enable you to verify the quality of measurements in the field over a period of years.

The features of the SHM31 at a glance:

- Measurement of snow depths over large distances, accurate to a few millimetres
- Various heating functions
- Long-life laser diode
- High-quality measurement data in all weather conditions
- Compact and weather-proof housing
- Differentiation between snow and other natural surfaces
- Maintenance-free operation

ABOUT G. LUFFT MESS- UND REGELTECHNIK GMBH:

Since it's founding by Gotthilf Lufft in 1881, G. Lufft GmbH has been the leader in the production of climatological measuring equipment – always with the motto "tradition meets innovation". Lufft's capacity for innovation and precision has helped its products establish the solid reputation they enjoy around the world. The company's products can be found in use wherever variables such as air pressure, temperature, relative humidity and other environmental factors need to be measured. Together with its subsidiaries in the U.S. and in China, the company has 105 employees. In November 2012, G. Lufft GmbH was awarded the German Standards Brand Prize and was named a "Brand of the Century". More information at: www.lufft.com.

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