LFE CONTHOS 3 - TCD Ex p

ATEX Thermal Conductivity Hydrogen Gas Analyzer

Key Features

- ⇨Extremely long term stable analysis of H_2 and noble gases in binary and quasi-binary gas mixtures with lowest and extreme suppressed ranges: 99.5 -100%
- ⇨Ultra-fast response time $T_{90} \leq 3$ sec
- ⇨Highly corrosion and temperature resistant TCD detector with Al_2O_3, glass and quartz
- ⇨ATEX Ex p version for ex zones 1 and 2
- ⇨Extremely low purge gas consumption

Typical Applications

- ⇨Metallurgical process gases such as blast furnace with flammable gases in hazardous areas
- ⇨Steel industry: Heat treatment & hardening
- ⇨Monitoring of gas purity, pressure swing adsorption and LEL/UEL
- ⇨Petrochemistry: Flammable gases in hazardous areas - Gas processing to synthesis/ reformer gas & coal gasification
- ⇨H_2 and O_2 purity in water electrolysis
- ⇨Monitoring of hydrogen in turbogenerators

Description

The CONTHOS 3 - TCD Ex p state-of-the-art thermal conductivity gas analyzer is an analytical instrument developed for online industrial use in hazardous areas.

The special outstanding technical features of LFE's microprocessor controlled gas analyzer are:

- ⇨High temperature version of thermal conductivity detector - thermostat controlled temperature from 50°C to max. 120°C
- ⇨High corrosion resistance in the entire sample gas path
- ⇨Low detection limit in the lower ppm range
- ⇨Response highly independent of the gas flow
- ⇨Extraordinarily high long-term stability
- ⇨Intuitive user-interface based on NAMUR recommendations
- ⇨Automatic self-diagnosis
- ⇨Optional dynamic interference correction of up to 3 gases in conjunction with external, selective gas analyzer channels

The technical features of the unique CONTHOS 3 - TCD Ex p gas analyzer open up new areas of application for the thermal conductivity principle in hazardous areas also including the measuring of flammable gases.

The selected thermostat temperature of the detector can help minimize the cross interference of possible accompanying gas components. Furthermore, accompanying gases can be measured by means of suitable external measuring methods and an interference correction of these components can be carried out.

First developed in 1979 the LFE CONTHOS gas analyzer has proven itself in many years of continuous operation. The CONTHOS 3 - TCD Ex p is used in ex zone 1 and 2 fields such as:

- ⇨in corrosive process gases in the chemical and petrochemical industry
- ⇨in thermostat controlled applications up to 120°C
- ⇨in all of the "classical" applications of the TCD principle with outstanding measurement performance

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CONTHOS-3-TCD_Exp_PDS_en
2023-07-03

LFE's Thermal Conductivity Detector (TCD)

In conventional gas analyzers utilizing the principle of thermal conductivity a heated object is suspended in a volume containing the sample gas. Electrical energy passed through the object results in the object heating up and attaining an equilibrium temperature which is primarily dependent upon the thermal conduction properties of the surrounding gas. This temperature is normally measured directly as a change in the electrical resistance of the heated object itself.

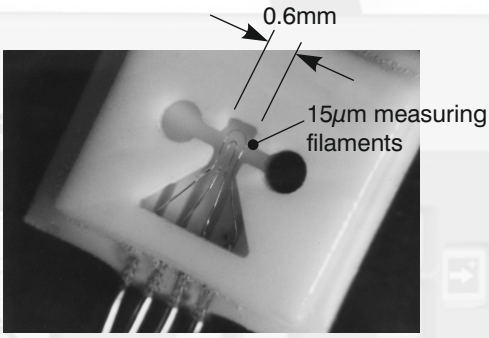
LFE´s unique principle modifies this "classical" method by spatially and electrically decoupling the heated element from the temperature sensing element. The specially designed geometry of the TCD cell in conjunction with the decoupling effectively suppresses undesired competing thermal effects (i.e. free and forced convectional effects). The result is an instrument whose quick, stable response requires no compromise between gas flow and response time.

Features

⇨ micro-miniaturized for quick responsebehavior

⇨ corrosion and temperature resistant

⇨made of aluminum-oxide (Al_2O_3), glass and SiO_x-coated platinum sensor filaments



Options

⇨Up to 3 switchable ranges: independently configurable, suppressed & absolute (non-suppressed)

⇨Dynamic interference correction of accompanying components in multi-component gas mixtures in conjunction with external, selective gas analyzers

⇨Digital I/O board for remote range switching, range identification, threshold contacts, etc.

⇨RS-485 interface with Modbus RTU protocol

⇨TC detector with flowing reference cell (CONTHOS 3E & 3F)

Model Variations

CONTHOS 3E - TCD
19"-rack housing
(protective class IP40)

CONTHOS 3F -TCD
field-housing
(protective class IP65)

CONTHOS 3F - TCD Ex p
explosion protected
ATEX version for ex zone

CONTHOS 3F - TCD HT
high temperature
version

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Technical Data

Enclosure & electrical data

	CONTHOS 3E 19" rack housing	CONTHOS 3F field housing	CONTHOS 3F - Ex p ATEX-compliant Ex p system	CONTHOS 3F - HT high temperature version
	for mounting in 19" cabinet	purgeable steel housing for wall mounting; with separate compartments for the electronic components and the analytical components		
Dimensions (H x W x D)	133 x 483 x 427 mm (3U / 84HP)	434 x 460 x 270 mm	490 x 460 x 270 mm	502 x 460 x 270 mm
Protection class	IP40	IP65		
Electrical hazardous area class			Protection type "px" for zones 1 & 2 according to EN 60079 Ex protective class of system: II 2 G, Ex p II T4	
Weight	approx. 10 kg	approx. 25 kg	approx. 30 kg	approx. 25 kg
Power requirements	100-240 VAC (48-62Hz; nominal voltage range: 88-253 VAC; 100 VA max. during warm-up period)			

Measuring characteristics

Measuring principle	Thermal conductivity (TCD). Difference in thermal conductivity ($\Delta\lambda$) of various gases
Measuring ranges	Up to 3 linearized, independently configurable, switchable ranges. Suppressed output ranges within the corresponding reference range can be easily configured. Range switching is accomplished manually, automatically and/or remotely via optional digital inputs. lowest range: 0 - 0.5% H_2 in N_2 or 99.5-100% H_2 in N_2 (or equivalent $\Delta\lambda$) largest range: 0 - 100% H_2
Calibration	Manual: 2-point (zero / span) calibration Option: automatic or remote calibration in conjunction with the optional digital I/O-board or RS-485
Warm-up time	dependent upon TCD operating temperature as well as the ambient temperature: 70°C: approx. 20 min.; 180°C: approx. 90 min.
Response time τ_{90}	≤ 3 sec (at 60 l/h gas flow and minimum signal dampening level)
Influence of gas flow	between 3 - 30 l/h: < 0.5% of range span for a gas flow change of ±10 l/h between 30 - 60 l/h: < 1% of range span for a gas flow change of ±10 l/h Higher flow rates up to e.g. 120 l/h are possible. At these higher flow rates it is recommended that the analyzer be calibrated at the operating flow rate.
Pressure influence	The TCD principle has a normally negligible pressure dependency. At very low ranges it can be seen as a proportional signal offset. Gas specific order of magnitude: < 0.02% H_2 equivalent per 100 mbar
Detection limit [1]	≤ 0.5% of span (at signal dampening level: 1 sec)
Linearity/ Accuracy [1]	≤ 0.5% of span
Reproducibility [1]	≤ 0.5% of span
Response drift [1]	Zero: ≤ 1% of span per week Span: ≤ 1% of span per week
Ambient temperature influence	Zero: ≤ 1% of span per 10 K Span: ≤ 1% of span per 10 K
Ambient temperature in operation	allowed temperature range : +5 to +45°C
Influence of inclination	no influence

[1] at constant temperature and pressure

The stability data is valid for analyzer operation with pure bottled gases. Instrument accuracy is based on binary or quasi-binary gas mixtures. Deviations from the above data can occur in conjunction with process gases depending upon the gas quality and the degree of gas handling.
Unless otherwise specified the CONTHOS gas analyzer is neither ex-proof nor intrinsically safe in terms of explosion protection.

The CONTHOS may not be employed for the analysis of ignitable gas-mixtures. The customer must ensure compliance with applicable regulations when using the analyzer with inflammable or toxic gases or when installing within explosion endangered environments.
The customer must ensure that the sample gas is dry and free of particulates.

Technical Data (continued)

Materials in contact with sample gas

	CONTHOS 3E 19" rack housing	CONTHOS 3F field housing	CONTHOS 3F - Ex p ATEX-compliant Ex p system	CONTHOS 3F - HT high temperature version
TC-Detector	Al_2O_3-ceramic and sapphire, glass and SiO_x-coated Pt-measuring filaments high corrosion- and temperature-resistance			
Internal gas lines	standard: PTFE optional: stainless steel tubing (SS 321; similar to 1.4541) and 1.4571	standard: PTFE optional: stainless steel tubing (SS 321; similar to 1.4541)	stainless steel tubing (SS 321; similar to 1.4541)	
Sample-gas connectors	Standard: stainless steel (SS 316; similar to 1.4401) Standard: Swagelok® connectors for ø6mm tubing			
	Optional: Swagelok® connectors for ϕ¼" tubing Optional: NPT ¼" (female)	Optional: Swagelok® connectors for ϕ¼" tubing		Optional: Swagelok® connectors for ϕ¼" tubing
	Optional : PFA connectors for synthetic tubing DN 4/6 (only in conjunction with PTFE tubing)			

Data display, inputs and outputs

User Interface	LC-display (40 characters x 16 lines) + bar graph Plain text description of instrument status as well as digital status output Language: switchable between English & German
Analog signal output	2 independently configurable, galvanically isolated analog outputs (with common ground; R_{Load} = 600Ω max) Available output levels: 0 - 20 mA, 4 - 20 mA, 4 - 20 mA with superimposed instrument status (NAMUR NE43 compliant) as well as test signal levels (0, 4, 10, 12 & 20 mA)
Digital outputs 1 to 3 (instrument status)	Instrument status (NAMUR NE107-compliant) via floating contacts (28V max.; 350mA max.) FAILURE (DO 1) | MAINTENANCE REQUIRED (DO 2) | FUNCTION CHECK (DO 3)
Analog inputs (optional)	3 galvanically isolated, configurable analog inputs for interference correction 0 – 20mA or 4 – 20mA (R_i = 50Ω)
Interference correction	3 correction channels for static and/or dynamic interference correction (dynamic correction only in conjunction with the optional analog inputs or RS-485)
Digital I/O (optional)	Digital inputs: 8 configurable, optically isolated inputs (6 – 24 VDC; 10mA max.) • remote range selection • remote triggering of zero and span calibration • remote triggering and cancelling of automatic calibration • switching of interference correction analog inputs to a secondary input range • mapping of user defined input to a digital output Digital outputs: 7 configurable, floating relay contacts (28V max.; 350mA max.) • threshold monitoring (1 threshold per measuring range) • feedback as to the current range • calibration gas selection • mapping of user defined input to a digital output
Modbus interface (optional)	• Modbus RTU - RS485 • Modbus TCP
Service interface	non-isolated serial interface for accessing the instrument's configuration via a proprietary PC software

Note:

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