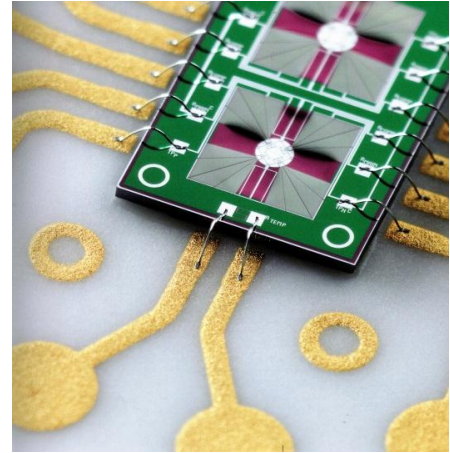


## Fast detective from Limburg

**Thugs and other criminals worldwide beware! From an inconspicuous building on an industrial estate in Sittard (Limburg, The Netherlands) you will be hunted in the future with help of the latest technological gadget. That is what Archi Leenaers predicts, president and owner of Anatech, the resident of these premises. This device is called the 'Flash DSC' and allows materials to be tested for their characteristics by the speed of lightning. Thanks to that speed (5000 times faster than existing equipment) the characteristics of very small materials, that until now were not measurable, can be measured.**



'A revolution!', says Leenaers proudly. Researchers can analyze items, regardless of how small the structure might be. This is the second feature: the device is not only fast, but also very small (half by a half millimeter) allowing even very smallest wisps to be analyzed. A new weapon for the fight against crime and violence, where often the smallest evidence can be critical for a successful solution. Leenaers expects that in a few years time approximately 150 top forensic institutes all over the world will own a Flash DSC with know-how from Limburg.

Not only crime fighters will find the device evry useful, also the industry that keeps on creating more compact and complex things. Leenaers uses terms like miniaturizing and nanotechnology. 'The trend is to be smaller and faster.' As an example he mentions mobile phones, where on a continuously smaller getting surface more functions need to be installed. 'With the help of the equipment of Anatech, designers can work at the boundaries of what is possible with materials', he ensures.



That Leenaers is not exaggerating is proven by the prize that Anatech, together with three other partners (Mettler-Toledo, Xensor Integration and SciTe), has won for this invention: the R&D 100, a prestigious award from the USA, which honors every year the one hundred most innovative high-tech products. Leenaers will shortly receive the award in Orlando (Florida).

The kickoff was made in 2003 by professor Vincent Mathot. He wanted to do quicker measurements to see how polymers react to changing temperatures. But nobody had the technology to do it. Only in 2006, Anatech found a workable solution. Inventing the best method to measure it took up a total of seven years. The tricks of the trade? If we have to believe Leenaers, they are the applied sensors and the electronics used. He is not afraid the system will be copied. 'It will take years before anyone can do that. And three patents are hidden within the device. Two of which were developed by Anatech.'

*Source: Dagblad de Limburger / Limburgs Dagblad, July 2011*  
*Text: Peter Kamps*

