



# Precision Freeforms at Optimax

*Embracing Total Error*

**Presented By:**

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# OPTIMAX<sup>®</sup>

Headquarters **Ontario, NY**

Founded **1991**

In Operation **30yrs**

Privately Held Company —  
**Controlling Ownership in  
Perpetual Purpose Trust**



**350**  
employees



**50**  
engineers



**120K**  
sq foot facility

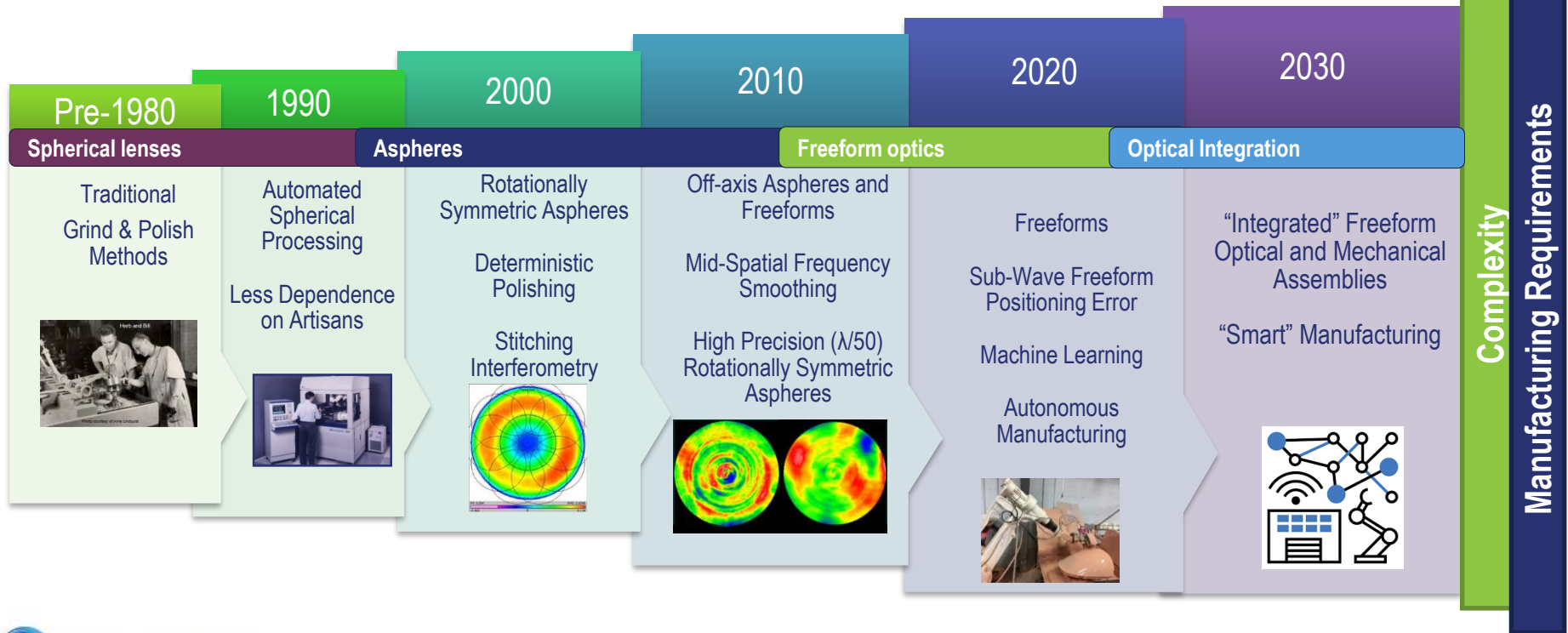
**50,000 OPTICS** shipped annually



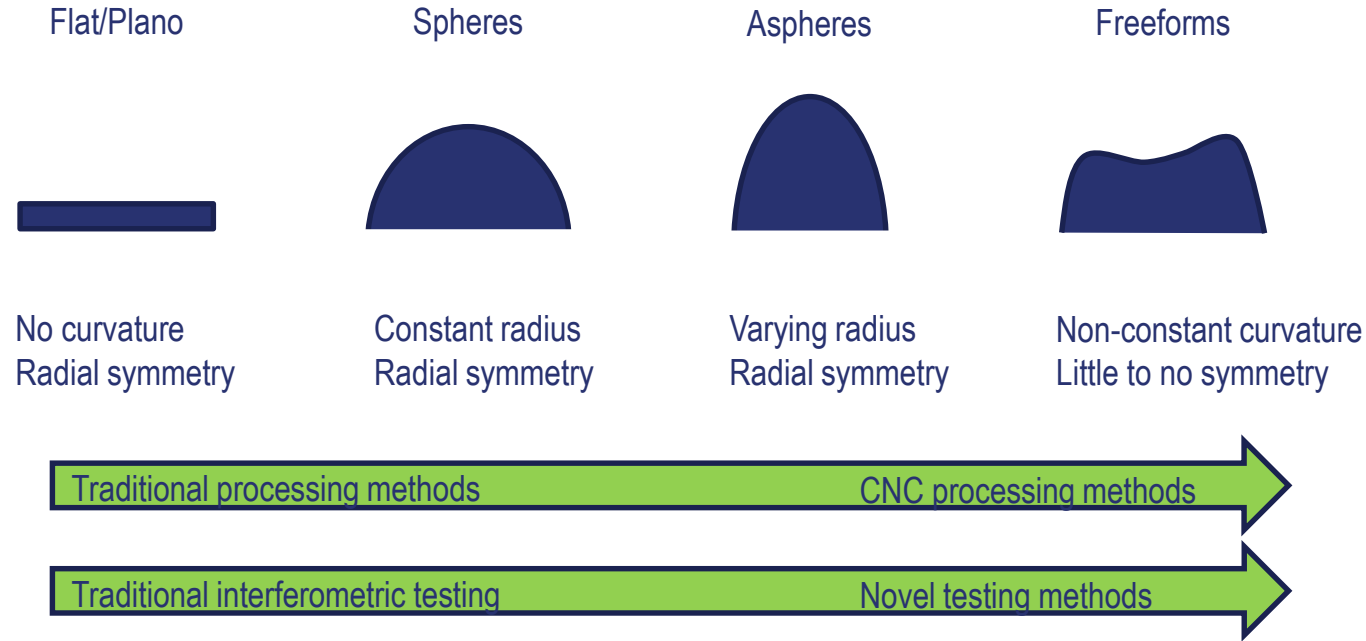
## ENGINEERING THE SOLUTIONS OF TOMORROW

Enabling Customer Success and Employee Prosperity

# Advancement of Precision Optics Manufacturing



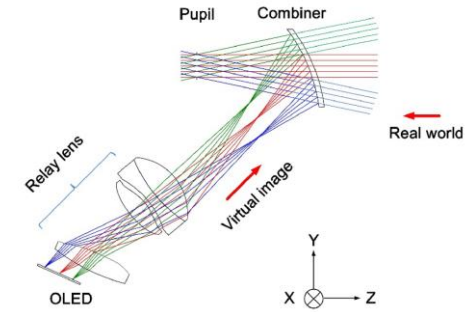
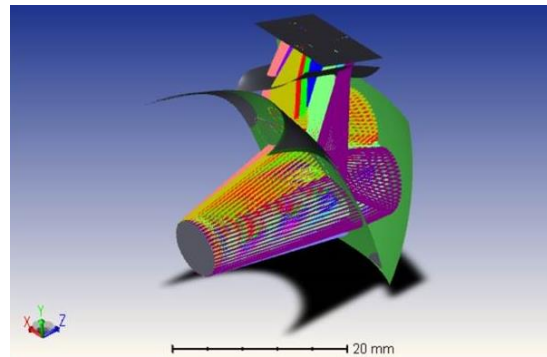
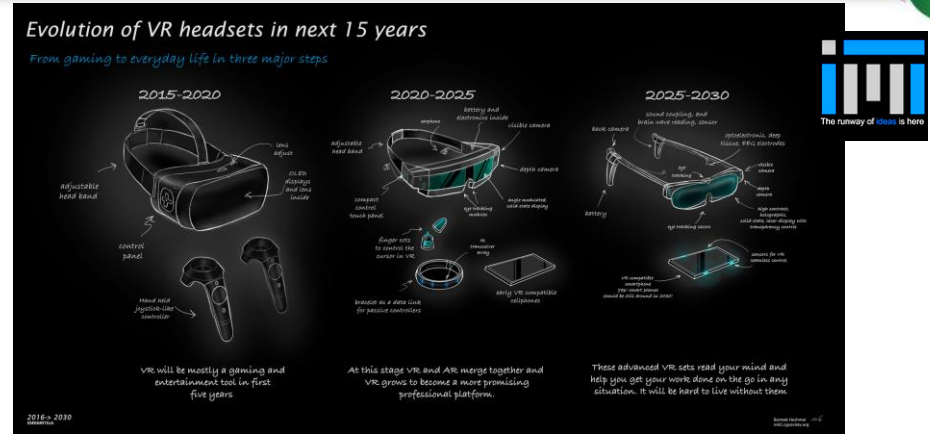
# We define freeforms by their lack of symmetry and their fabrication method



# Why would you use a freeform optical surface?

## A few examples:

- Reducing size
- Off-axis optical designs
- Beam shaping
- Conformal shapes

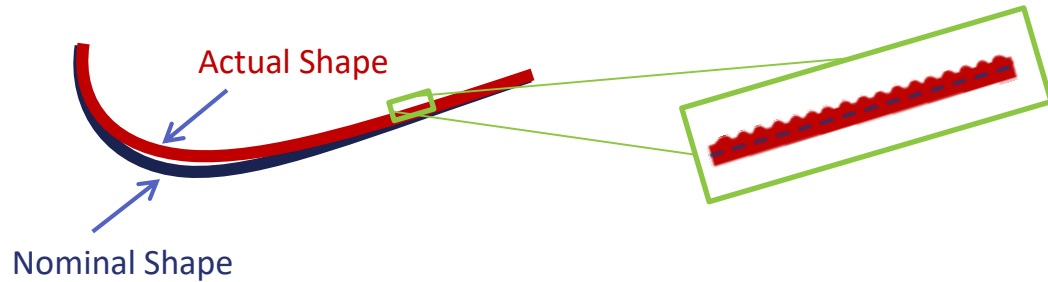


Lidong Wei, et al., Opt. Express **26**, 8550-8565 (2018);

# *Total Error* is important for freeforms

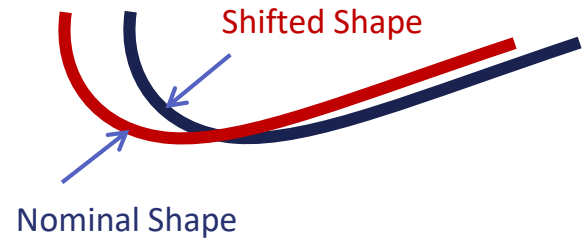


**Total Error** = (Surface Irregularity + Surface Texture + Positioning) errors



## **Surface Irregularity**

Low order surface form errors



## **Positioning**

Position relative to global coordinate system

**Surface Texture**  
Surface Roughness and  
Mid-Spatial Frequency (MSF) Errors

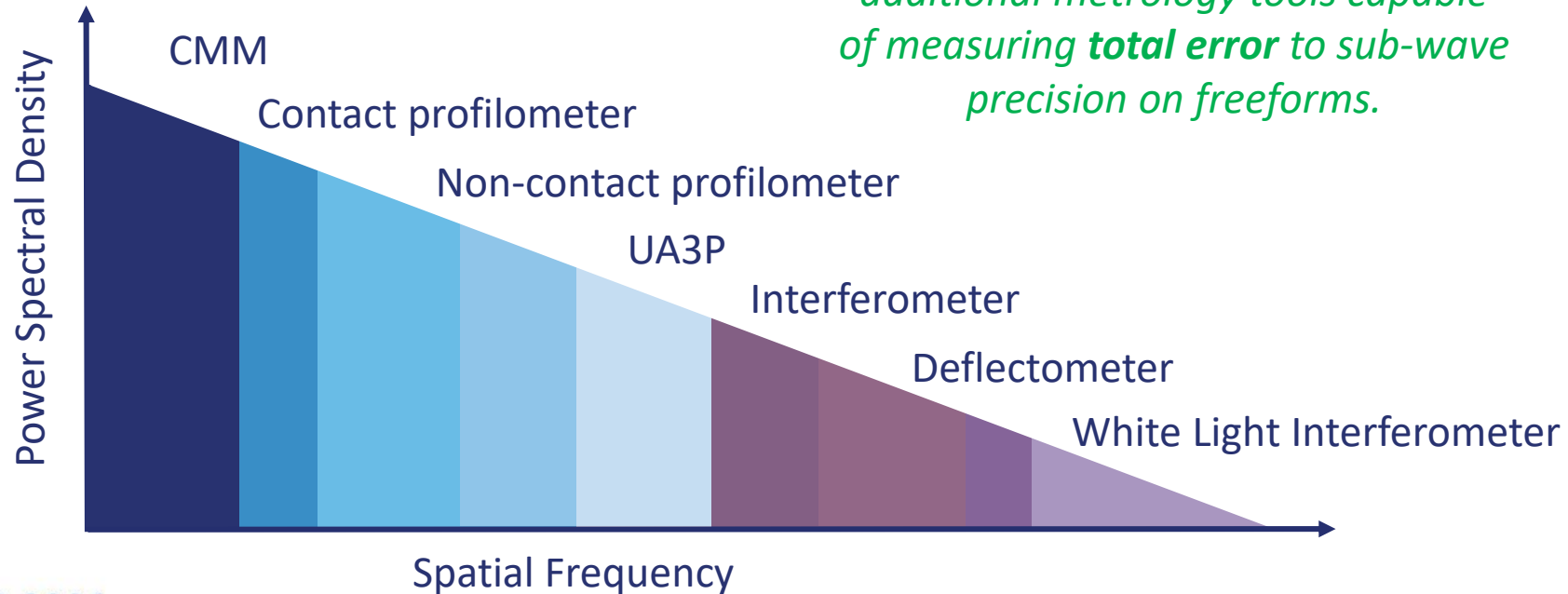


# Multiple instruments required for full spatial frequency measurement coverage for freeforms

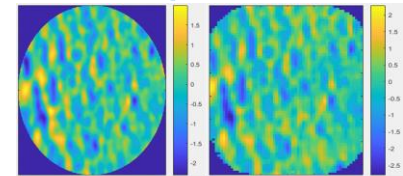
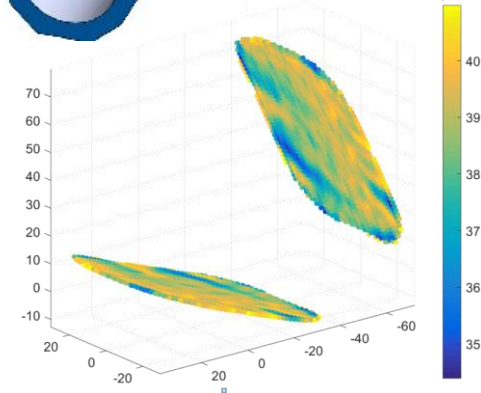
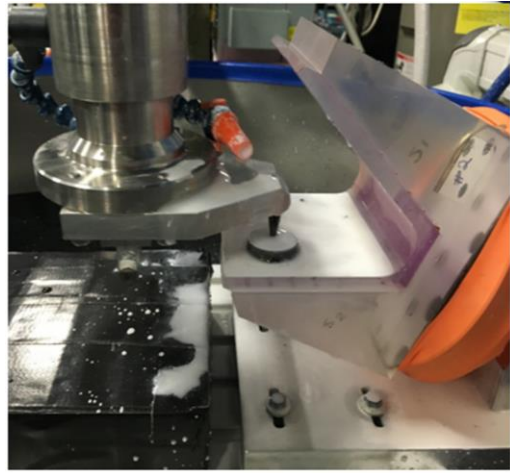
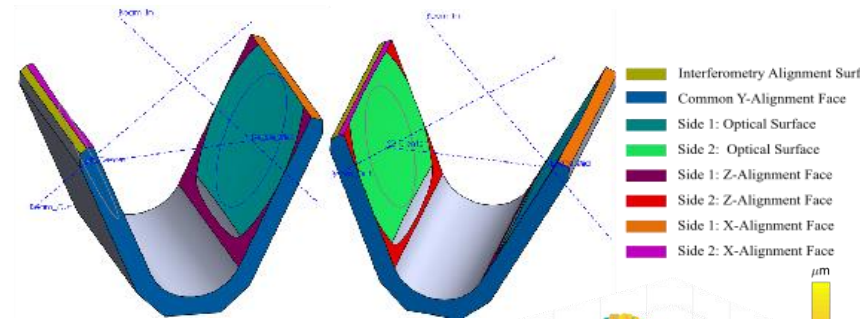
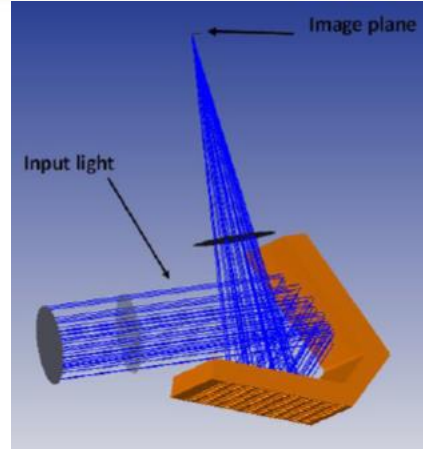


Every method has pros and cons

*We continuously search for additional metrology tools capable of measuring **total error** to sub-wave precision on freeforms.*



# Monolithic freeform telescope example





# Freeforms continue to be the future

*Trending towards higher precision and more extreme surfaces*

Freeforms are being used to reduce system size, off-axis design, conformal windows and beam correction

- Freeform designs and manufacturing methods continue to evolve
- Total error (surface form + surface texture + position) is important for freeform system performance
  - Freeforms are subject to complicated alignment errors and MSF errors

## Experience leads to breakthroughs

- Collaborations driving toward more extreme surfaces
- Interested in partnering with universities, research institutes and industry to create more manufacturable low **total error** freeform systems

# and now for the famous EPIC questions!



## What can Optimax do for you?

- We will partner with you to manufacture custom optical components to help you achieve your desired system performance.
- Our value contribution includes expertise in manufacturing, testing and coating optics of all forms, including freeforms!

## How can you help Optimax?

- New ways to measure freeform surfaces
- Collaboration for better ways to specify and tolerance freeform surfaces
- Partner for new applications for freeform optics

