



We Measure the World

2365 NE Hopkins Court
Pullman, Washington 99163
phone 509-332-2756
website www.decagon.com

WATER ACTIVITY (a_w) SCIENTIFIC CONTEST by AquaLab

Executive Summary

Decagon is sponsoring a competition to find the best research being done in water activity (a_w). Participants will have the opportunity to showcase their new and exciting projects using a_w as a tool for product development, quality control, and food safety. The competition will involve submitting a research quality paper to the review committee that details the work and highlights its uniqueness, market feasibility, and benefits to the consumer. The top three submissions will be rewarded as detailed below.

The goal for the “Water Activity Contest” is to stimulate the research and study of such a_w applications, raise the awareness about a_w science, encourage innovation, and provide a channel where top studies can be formally recognized.

Main Objective

Have users of AquaLab a_w meters submit papers on the importance of a_w as an indicator of product quality and safety focusing on the importance of the information a_w provides concerning quality control, research and development, packaging requirements, moisture migration, and other related subjects. The paper can relate information about utilizing a_w in former applications, current applications, or future planned projects. Examples of successfully implementing a_w as a process control or release specification are highly encouraged.

Eligibility

Users of any water activity meter manufactured by Decagon Devices, Inc. can participate in the contest. Accepted models include: AquaLab Series 3, AquaLab Series 3TE, Pawkit, AquaLab LITE, AquaLab Series 4TE, AquaLab Series 4TEV, AquaLab Series 4TE DUO, and AquaSorp. The serial number of the instrument must be mentioned in the application form (see form attached).

Paper Submission Guideline

Submission should be in electronic format: Microsoft Word or PDF, Letter or A4 format, font Arial 10, and should not exceed 6 pages, including the mandatory application form. All material must be in the English language. Papers must be submitted to your local authorized AquaLab distributor, who will approve your submission. For a list of distributors in your area, please visit www.aqualab.com.

Deadlines

All papers must be submitted before April 30th, 2011.

The results and awards will be presented during the “Institute of Food Technologists” (IFT) Conference on June 11-13th, 2011 in New Orleans, LA, USA. Winners are not required to be present.



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Evaluation Process

Papers will be evaluated by a committee formed by highly qualified professionals, professors, and scientists, divided into three main groups:

- Local AquaLab distributor (will grade and select three top papers to submit to Decagon)
- Independent industry expert
- A team formed by Decagon employees

Evaluators will judge the following factors:

- Uniqueness of application
- Market feasibility
- Cost-savings potential

Awards

First place: Organization will receive a voucher worth US\$3000 (three thousand dollars) in products or services from Decagon. Individual responsible for the paper will receive a VISA gift card worth US\$1500.

Second place: Organization will receive a voucher worth US\$2000 (two thousand dollars) in products or services from Decagon. Individual responsible for the paper will receive a VISA gift card worth US\$1000.

Third place: Organization will receive a voucher worth US\$1000 (one thousand dollars) in products or services from Decagon. Individual responsible for the paper will receive a VISA gift card worth US\$500.

All applicants will receive a certificate of participation from Decagon Devices.



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APPLICATION WATER ACTIVITY (aw) SCIENTIFIC CONTEST (To be completed by the applicant)

Lead author: _____

Level of education: _____

Serial number of the Instrument: _____ (required)

Organization's name: _____

Job title: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP Code: _____ Country: _____

Total number of pages in this document: _____

The paper submitted within this entry is an original work developed and presented by the author listed within the application form. All sources used to develop this paper have been properly credited and cited. I herewith authorize *Decagon Devices Inc.* to publish the above paper in its website and/or on its marketing material. This paper has not been copyrighted elsewhere. I also confirm that I have full permission from my company or organization to present this paper. The inclusion of my full legal name and email address below constitutes my electronic signature and is verification of my agreement to the statements and conditions above.

Author Full Legal Name: _____

Author Email Address: _____

Date: _____

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* *

(For internal use only)

The candidate fulfills all the requirements? Y / N

AquaLab Distributor	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Industry Expert	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Decagon team	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Total score: _____