Two Shimadzu analytical instruments, the AIM-9000 infrared microscope and the IRSpirit Fourier transform infrared spectrophotometer, have been awarded the Red Dot Design Award for Product Design 2018, a renowned design prize in Germany. Although Shimadzu Industrial Systems Co., Ltd. won this prize for the VESTA vacuum and pressurized sintering furnace in 2013, this is the first time Shimadzu Corporation products have received the Red Dot Design award.

The Red Dot Design award is a worldwide design award supported by Design Zentrum Nordrhein Westfalen in Germany. Excellent designs are selected from amongst ones advertised for the past two years. The high-tech Shimadzu products were among more than 6,300 submissions from 59 countries. The products will be on display in the Red Dot Design Museum in Essen for one year.

Brief descriptions of the two products are as follows:

**AIM-9000 Infrared Microscope**

The AIM-9000 infrared microscope is equipped with a high-speed automatic measurement system for microscopic contaminants, enabling failure analysis, such as confirming foreign substances in pharmaceutical tablets or contaminated electronic substrates that cause contact failure. The best thing about the AIM-9000 is the ability to automatically perform procedures for determining the measuring points, fixing the measurement area, and analyzing undefined samples with a successful achievement of a 30,000:1 S/N ratio.

**IRSpirit Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrophotometer Series**

IRSpirit series features infrared lights that anticipate the chemical structures based on analyses of substances. In addition, the world’s smallest and lightest instrument, with a size of 390mm in width and 250mm in depth and weight of 8.5 kg, makes it a highly portable system with exceptional versatility. An analysis assistant program enables easy operation of 23 types of confirmation tests and contaminant analyses.

The Red Dot Design Award Ceremony took place in the Aalto-Theater Essen on 9th July, 2018. Approx. 1,200 international guests participated in the ceremony and celebrated Winners’ design achievements. The primary designers, Ms. Kyo and Ms. Ihara, of the General Design Centre, Design Unit, attended to receive the prestigious award.

Pictures of the main venue of the event, display items, and award-winning designers can be seen below.