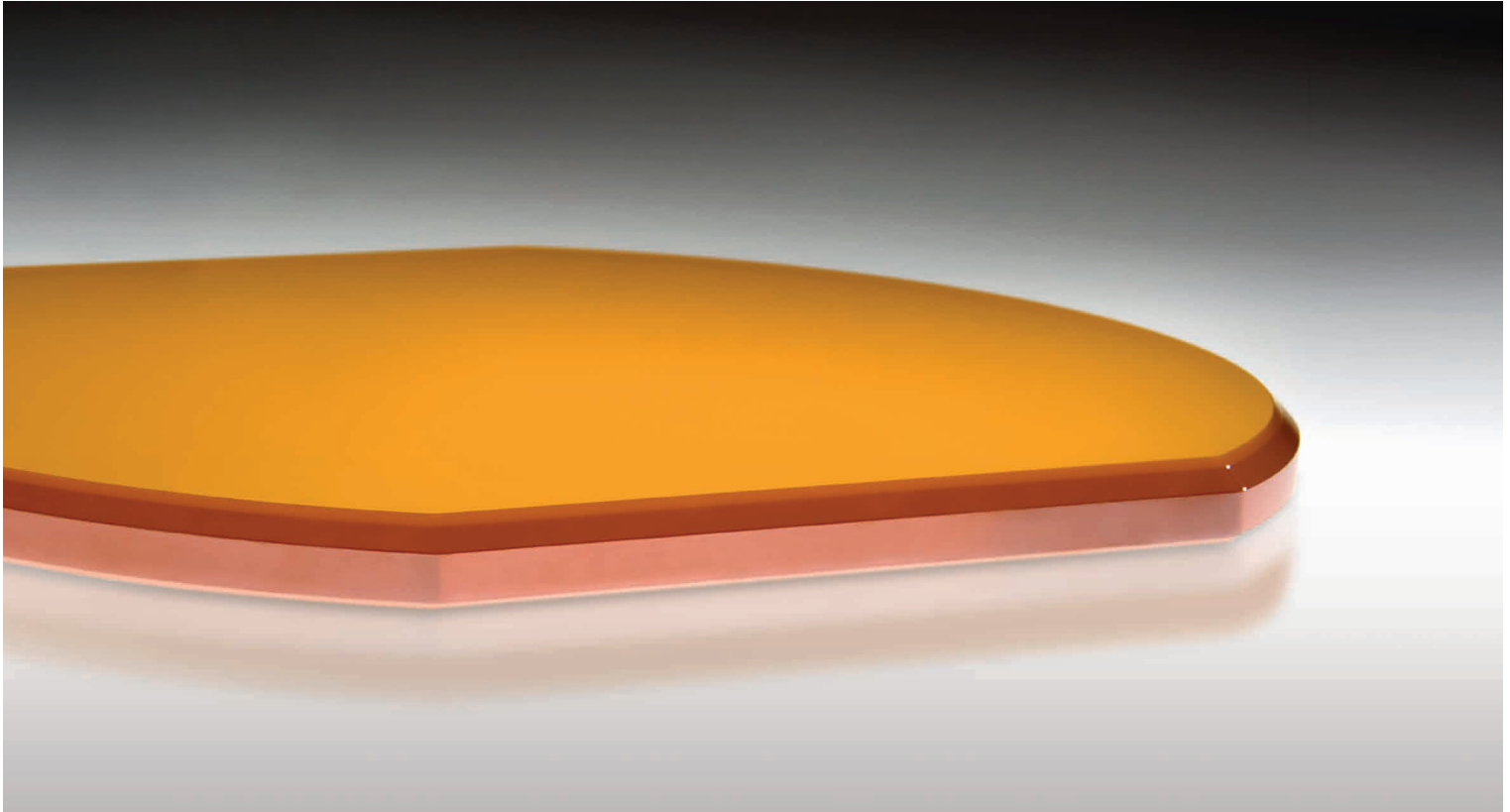


When every photon counts®

Hellma® Materials
CVD Ceramics



Tuftran®

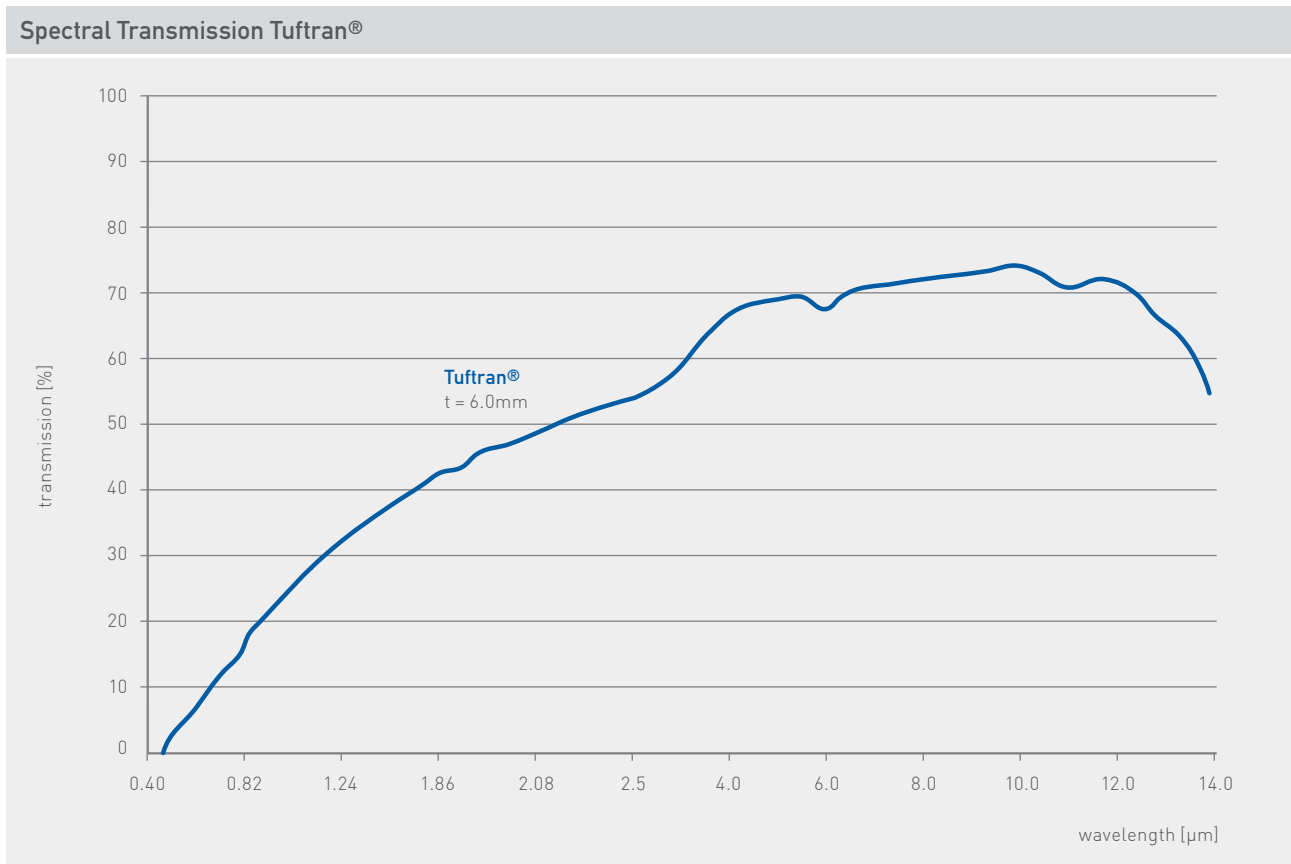
IR applications in harsh
environmental conditions



Tuftran®

Infrared transmissive windows are currently used at the entrance apertures of many airborne reconnaissance or navigation systems. The window material must not significantly decrease the incoming signal or render the signal noisy, and it should be strong enough to resist dust and rain erosion encountered during high speed flight. Zinc Selenide (ZnSe) with its excellent transmission in the infrared is an ideal candidate for this application, however, ZnSe is a “soft” material (hardness = 110 knoop, flexural strength = 8000 psi) which does not effectively resist rain and dust erosion during high speed flight. Zinc Sulfide (ZnS) does not have the superior optical properties of zinc selenide, but it is a “harder” material making it much more capable of withstanding adverse environmental conditions.

Tuftran® combines the advanced optical and mechanical properties of both materials.



Tuftran® infrared material consists of a polished ZnSe window over which a ZnS layer is chemically vapor deposited. This layer of ZnS protects the ZnSe window and enhances the material's environmental durability making it better able to resist rain, dust, and dirt. Tuftran® features the wide band (1-14 µm) imaging characteristics of zinc selenide and the mechanical robustness of zinc sulfide. The resulting material offers high hardness, excellent imaging characteristics, non-hygroscopicity, and ease of fabrication.

Tuftran® has been custom ordered in plates up to 24 inches in diameter. Blanks are fabricated according to customer specified surface area and zinc sulfide thickness. When ordering Tuftran®, please call CVD Ceramics for a technical discussion.

Properties of Tuftran®

	Tuftran®
Mechanical properties	
Modulus of rupture [ZnS/ZnSe] [psi]	>=7500
Modulus of elasticity [ZnS/ZnSe] [psi]	≈ 8.41 x 10 ⁶
Hardness on ZnS: Knoop	>=200

Rain Erosion Resistance

A coating of about 1 mm of ZnS deposited on a ZnSe blank is sufficient to produce a window with rain erosion resistance equivalent to that of pure ZnS without a significant loss in the optical properties of the ZnSe. A sample of Tuftran® (25 mm diameter x 6 mm thick, 1 mm ZnS, 5 mm ZnSe), coated with COE 2203* rain erosion resistant coating on both sides, was tested for rain erosion resistance at the Royal Aerospace Establishment (RAE) under the following conditions:

- Velocity of 223 m/s (500 mph)
- Rain field intensity of 25 mm/hour
- Drop size of 2 mm diameter
- Impact angle of 75° (normal incidence = 90°) on the ZnS surface

After 20 minutes of erosion time, transmission of the sample dropped an average of 3.0% between 8 and 12 microns. This datum confirms the superior performance against rain erosion.

*COE 2203 is a product of Coherent Optics Europe Limited, Leicester, United Kingdom

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CVD Ceramics, Inc.
11911 Advanced Materials Drive
New Iberia, LA 70560
USA
phone + 1 337 867 4263 Ext. 2238
fax + 1 337 867 4494
info@cvdceramics.com
www.cvdceramics.com



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