

## Decagon Builds Thermal Research Instrumentation

Date: June 8, 2006

For the past 23 years, Decagon has manufactured quality scientific instrumentation that measures thermal properties and moisture in food, soils, and other porous materials. Our instruments are in use throughout the world in organizations of all sizes, including universities, research and testing laboratories, state and government agencies, wineries, and industrial testing facilities. Recognized as a world leader in the markets we serve, Decagon was selected to design an instrument that will fly to Mars on the 2007 Phoenix Scout Lander and test thermal properties of Martian soil.

Scientists at Decagon first measured thermal conductivity in the late 1970's. This was done by putting a temperature sensor in a soil sample and suspending it in a constant temperature bath. This initial work was done for modeling heat and water transfer through soil. In 1985, Decagon manufactured its first thermal conductivity instrument, the PC-1. Today, Decagon features the handheld KD2 for measuring thermal conductivity and thermal resistivity, and the KD2 Pro for measuring thermal conductivity, thermal resistivity, thermal diffusivity, and specific heat (heat capacity).