Continuous mixing processes for pharmaceutical solids

Gericke, headquartered in Regensdorf, Switzerland, has developed a new type of micro-mixer which now makes it possible to carry out continuous solid substance processes in the pharmaceutical industry. Compared with the traditional batch process, it offers increased flexibility while at the same time taking up less space. Some years ago the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) introduced the 'continuous manufacturing' initiative, which is aimed at improving the production process, shortening the time needed for the development of a product which in turn leads to reduced production costs.
With this in mind Gericke has extended its range of GCM continuous mixers to ensure optimum processing of these very small throughput volumes. The latest GCM 250 is designed for a capacity of 1-200kg/h, which for example allows a tablet compaction unit to be installed directly in conjunction with the blending process. A purely metallic flashed shaft seal ensures that none of the product can enter into this chamber. For cleaning purposes the mixing chamber rotor and shaft seal can be separated from the stationary drive unit in a matter of a few seconds. All parts can be cleaned in an autoclave. www.gericke.net

Gericke's GCM 250 for pharmaceutical processing