Stanford Research Systems sent out demo units to a few universities to get feedback on DigiMelt before going into full production. Here are comments from seven students at Olivet College on using DigiMelt:

> The DigiMelt was way better than the Fisher-Johns. I really liked the digital screen, and how you could set it to rise at a certain degree per minute. The automatic shake feature was cool too. I would much rather use the DigiMelt. I think it would be much easier and more efficient. I also think it would be a lot more accurate.
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> *The DigiMelt is awesome! It was so simple to use. The step by step instructions were so simple. I loved the tube tapper, it was so much easier than having to tap it on the counter. It was very easy to see the substance in the tube, which really helped when I was trying to see what was going on. In the other melting apparatus it was very hard to tell when it was fully melted. With this there was no question, you could see it plain as day. I love that you can be watching what is going on and just push the button to record the temp when you see something happening, and when its fully melted. I really hope that we get to keep it because it makes things so much easier and accurate.*
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> The DigiMelt is a more resourceful piece of lab equipment then the Fisher-Johns. First, the DigiMelt is completely digital reading. This means you don't have to look at a thermometer and see what temp you are at. Secondly, The DigiMelt can take up to three readings at a time. Also you can save the temp when the compound starts to melt and when the compound is completely melted. Next, it is much easier to see your compound melt. With the Fisher-Johns you had to look directly down at it. When you would look directly down at it you could really feel the heat and get a smell of the fumes. Lastly, It is much easier to clean up the DigiMelt, you just throw away the capillary instead of messing with the two plates in the Fisher-Johns. The DigiMelt hands down beats the Fisher-Johns in any competition.
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> *The DigiMelt was a great alternative to the 'old-school' Fisher-Johns melting apparatus. I found the DigiMelt to be much more accurate because not only did it measure temperature to the nearest tenth, but it also had a much more accurate reading as the temperature accurately correlated with the environment of the substance. I found that when the Fisher-John's apparatus heated too quickly that the thermometer would not keep up with surface temperature or vice versa. Also, I really liked how I could store the data once I observed melting activity. It made it very handy rather than looking back-and-forth at the thermometer and the compound. All-in-all, the DigiMelt is an amazing device. It allows me to customize settings to be better compatible with my experiment as the results seemed much more accurate. The only problem I found with the*

DigiMelt was the 'tube-tapper'... I feel it should go much longer, because I used the DigiMelt a couple of times and always had trouble getting the compound to settle to the bottom of the tube. Beyond that, the DigiMelt was definitely a luxury.

It is far more advanced than what we have been using. I was impressed about how many it could run at the same time. It would definitely cut down on how long it takes for a group of students to get their data. The DigiMelt is safer than the ones we have been using. There is no real easy way to burn yourself like the other. When I first saw it, it seemed kind of confusing. However, that got all cleared up after listening to your directions. It is definitely ten steps ahead of the model we use. I really liked it personally.

I thought that the DigiMelt was a lot more accurate and was a lot easier to use, I tended with the other machine to just doze off or just forget to watch the crystals as it heated up and by the time I realized I forgot to watch it my crystals had already melted. If I know the melting point and I know the range to set it too and the rate as well makes things a thousand times easier when looking for the melting point. As we both know the light is broke on one of them and is hard to see but the new apparatus makes it easier to view and is well lit. Overall I say its a good solid investment and worth the money over the Fisher-Johns apparatus.

I found the DigiMelt to be far superior to the Fisher-Johns apparatus. For starters I can't burn myself on it. Also, The fact that it preheats was pretty cool. A lot of times I would do a similar heating process to get the the melting point however I didn't have the same control to slow it down right before the melting point so a few times in lab I basically blew through the point of melting and had to redo. I also was thinking that with the three slots you could do like three samples of say an unknown to make an average which may be more accurate than just one test. The final thing I liked a lot was the sample button, so that you don't have to take your eyes off the lens to record the temperature when it starts to melt and when it stops. Because more than a couple times when I went to check the thermometer by the time I recorded the start temperature and looked back my sample was done melting so I don't know for sure that I caught the exact right temperatures at the right time. It is an extreme upgrade from what we have, hopefully you can acquire one for good!