

Editorial: Impact matters!

Laser & Photonics Reviews earned its first impact factor

Proving and showing new research work, like the operation of a novel optical device, is certainly the first and most important step for reputation and lasting impact, but communicating the result comes already second on the priority list. Laser & Photonics Reviews (LPR) collects and summarizes recent developments in laser & optics research, and although very young, has already received considerable attention in the community. The ‘impact’ of LPR has now been measured for the first time and quantified by Thomson Reuters ISI. We are proud to present to our readers the Laser & Photonics Reviews impact factor (2008) as 4.357. This is an excellent result. According to Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Report® Laser & Photonics Reviews now ranks second in the optics sector only after Nature Photonics and before the well established journals Optics Express and Optics Letters. The 2008 impact factor for LPR, as a new journal, is calculated by dividing the number of citations LPR articles from 2007 received in 2008 by the number of articles published in 2007. Next year, LPR will receive its first ‘full’ impact factor where all citations from 2009 to articles published in the last two years, i.e. 2007 and 2008, are counted. It is now already foreseeable that the impact factor 2009 will exceed that of this year.

Even before this result was published the high quality of LPR articles did not go unnoticed in the community and, compared to 2007 and the beginning of 2008, many more researchers have positively reacted on invitations to contribute to the journal. In the past year this has led to some manuscript backlog problems, i.e. not all articles which have been published online in our online Early View section could be published in print this year and also will not appear in the early issues of 2010. Laser & Photonics Reviews has reacted on this development by increasing its page budget in 2009. Furthermore, LPR will publish around 20% more articles in 2010 to satisfy the need for more print articles next year. Nevertheless, some authors might experience longer print publishing times than usual. We apologize for this inconvenience but would like to take this opportunity to inform our authors and readers that all LPR articles have unique digital object identifiers (DOI) which can be used to find and cite articles from Laser & Photonics Reviews, i.e. also those that are listed in the LPR Early View section. In times where most researchers use online libraries to access their articles, DOI numbers offer great advantages over conventional page-issue-year searches and

citations. For example, each article DOI can be directly used as a link to an article via your internet browser. Simply type <http://dx.doi.org/DOI> or doi.wiley.com/DOI, e.g. doi.wiley.com/10.1002/lpor.200810517.

Not only journals make an impact, some inventions are said to have a truly lasting impact. This year the Nobel committee has awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for two scientific achievements that used optical technology to shape the foundations of today’s networked societies. The prize is shared between “the masters of light” Charles K. Kao for his “groundbreaking achievements concerning the transmission of light in fibers for optical communication” and Willard S. Boyle together with George E. Smith “for the invention of an imaging semiconductor circuit – the CCD sensor”. Congratulations! The discoveries rewarded by the Nobel committee have been greeted with great enthusiasm in the optics community and are well in accordance with Nobel’s intention to reward those scientists who “shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind”. The reward recognizes not only the three pioneers but also shows that optical sciences and technology have great importance for our society. Laser & Photonics Reviews will certainly do its best to further promote this idea and give the community a platform to present its groundbreaking findings in a timely and well digestible form, namely as review articles. For example, Laser & Photonics Reviews presented a whole series of articles about Fiber optics in December 2009 (Vol. 2, Issue 6). The need for glass fibers was mainly triggered by the invention of the laser by Theodore Maiman in 1960 because it was immediately realized that laser light would be ideally suited for optical communication. Next year, Laser & Photonics Reviews will celebrate “50 Years of Laser” (Laser Photon. Rev. Vol. 4, Issue 1). Please have a look at the preview *In the next Issue* on page A46 for more details.

In 2010, Laser & Photonics Reviews will turn from a freely accessible journal into a subscription based journal. Until now, institutes could register for free online access and all institute members could benefit from this option. Institutes that until January 2010 have not subscribed to LPR will not be able to further benefit from the Laser & Photonics Reviews articles. We recommend all our readers to contact their librarian and make sure to get access to the LPR articles. Like many other Wiley-VCH

journals we allow for free access for every first issue of the year for the duration of that same year. Additionally, Laser & Photonics Reviews occasionally offers free access to selected articles marked as Editor's Choice in the online version (see Chan et al. [1] or Huang et al. [2] as examples).

For authors who would like to make their work permanently open accessible to the community we recently introduced the Online Open option. Authors have the option of paying a fee to ensure that their articles are available to non-subscribers. Further details can be found on the LPR web site (www.lpr-journal.org) in the *For Authors* section.

There is also some good news for researchers that would like to write a review but have not yet had the opportunity in Laser & Photonics Reviews. In the past, all reviews published in LPR have been based on a personal invitation by the Editor-in-Chief or Commissioning Editor. We will now give all researchers and potential authors the chance to apply for writing a review for LPR. The process is simple and only requires to fill out a review proposal form that can be found in the *For Authors* section on the LPR web site. Instead of writing a review yourself, you can also suggest someone writing a review about a certain topic that you think deserves more attention by sending an e-mail to the editorial office (laser@wiley-vch.de). Any of these ideas will be evaluated by the Editor or the Editorial Advisory Board and may well result in an invitation to the applicant or suggested author.

The journal's 3rd year turns to its end. Until now LPR has published 78 articles; with 35 articles in 2009 alone. Some articles had a special impact like A. Kaminskii [3], Petrov et al. [4] or J. M. Phillips et al. [5] who until now are cited most. The most popular articles in terms of full-text downloads from our web site are [5], Pelton et al. [6] and [3].

In this issue we present contributions about ultrafast nano-optics (page 483), nano-silicon photonics (p. 508), ultrafast laser written active devices (page 535), soft tissue laser ablation (page 545), quantum computing with solid state spins (page 556), plasmonic metasurfaces for waveguiding (page 575), and new developments in X-ray spectroscopy (page 591). We hope you will find this collection interesting and wish you a pleasant reading.

Guido W. Fuchs
Editor Laser & Photonics Reviews

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