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Controlling Random Lasers

Random lasers, with their very irregular angular emission pattern, are difficult to tune. But a team at Vienna University of Technology has theoretically shown that they can be controlled by actively shaping the spatial pump distribution, giving these exotic light sources the potential to become useful. "The essential point is the way in which the random laser is pumped," said professor Stefan Rotter of the Institute of Theoretical Physics at TU Vienna. "Our idea is to pump the laser not uniformly, but rather with a specific pattern, which is optimized such as to generate exactly the laser beam we want."

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Pump-Probe Laser Imaging to Improve the Arts

Intel Honors Tyndall Researcher for Photonics

A laser technique designed to diagnose melanoma is being applied to art, uncovering paint pigments and layering techniques noninvasively to provide insight into historical works, through a collaboration between the North Carolina Museum of Art and Duke University.

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Brian Corbett of Tyndall National Institute received the Intel Outstanding Researcher Award for his work in developing photonics for semiconductor applications.

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Space Station to Test Laser Communications

NASA will begin testing the Optical Payload for Lasercomm Science (OPALS) instrument that could dramatically improve spacecraft communication transmission rates by a factor of 10 to 100.

There are several methods to confine light, but a new approach uses two waves of the same wavelength — but

exactly opposite phases - to cancel each other out, allowing other wavelengths to pass freely.

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A New Way to Trap Light













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On this edition of the industry's only weekly newscast: a crystal-based data storage method might outlast the human race, a collaboration applies a laser imaging technique for melanoma to art, NASA tests technology that could dramatically speed spacecraft communications, and an enterprising student devises a body-heat-activated flashlight. Hosted by Photonics Media's Laura Marshall and Melinda Rose.

Photonics Industries Expanding on Long Island

The maker of Q-switched intracavity solid-state harmonic lasers and former Stony Brook University incubator will expand its operations in Islip and add 40 new jobs, the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency announced.

Capasso a Guest Scientist at MPQ

Renowned applied physicist Federico Capasso of Harvard University will join the Laser Spectroscopy Div. at the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics (MPQ), where he will explore the potential of quantum cascade lasers for mid-IR-frequency comb generation.

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5-D 'Superman' Memory Crystal Created Nanostructured glass has been demonstrated as a medium for recording digital text in 5-D using a femtosecond laser. The portable memory technology could store vast quantities of information - 360 TB on a disc - for more

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Agilent Technologies, Inc. - Measuring

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Measuring Optical Densities Over 10 Abs on the Agilent Cary 7000 Universal Measurement Spectrophotometer (UMS)

High blocking optical filters deliver critical optical control in a wide variety of consumer and industrial products. Highly attenuating (i.e., high optical density) filters are used in personal protective equipment, such as laser safety eyewear, through to precise, low light level control in optical systems for enhanced sensitivity at preferred wavelengths. This technical overview demonstrates the performance of the Cary 7000 UMS for the measurement of such materials.

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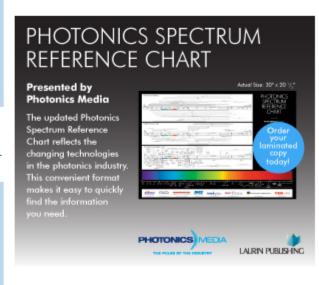
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