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Highlights from the January 2014 issue of Photonics Spectra



Trends in Lasers: Greater Speed, More Power and New Materials

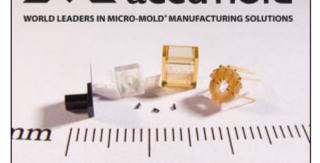
For lasers, the trends are fast and powerful - literally. Shorter pulse widths and greater power are future directions for the technology. On the horizon are new lasing materials and new concepts to produce laserlike light sources. The outcome of these advances could be more efficient, less wasteful manufacturing as well as systems that consume less energy.

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## Trends in Optics: Old and New Technologies Set to Flourish

Trends in Imaging: The Future Looks Photonic

Advances in optics in the past year or two have ranged from promising new optical materials to innovations in existing technologies. From optical coatings and add-on kits to quantum dots and metadevices, the scope of progress is as extensive as it is varied.

Developments in photonics have changed the landscape of imaging in communications, defense, security, health care, transportation and many other applications in a deep and lasting way over the past few years. Imaging

depends on the ability to obtain information and display it, which at some point in the process always involves

photons. What's trending is the way researchers are gathering imaging data and how they are using it.

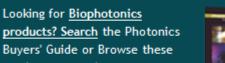
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Where the Jobs Are Now

As I contemplated today's photonics job/employment environment, and the business climate and outlook for 2014, I went back to the "Where the Jobs Are" article I wrote for the August 2012 issue of Photonics Spectra. One difference between then and now, at least from an economic perspective, is that we're simply further along in the economic recovery - but as we saw back then, job creation and job growth have continued to be slow/moderate.

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Image Quality Testing Improves as Cameras Advance
Image quality testing of complete cameras and assembled camera modules is standard in the optics industry. It is
done by imaging a suitable target using the camera module under test and evaluating the quality of the
reproduction of the target. But recent rapid advances in consumer-type technology - for example, 13-MPresolution cameras in smartphones becoming standard in the higher-priced region - are rewriting the rules.

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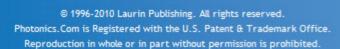
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