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Contents

- vii *Authors*
- ix *Conference Committee*
- xi *Introduction*

SESSION 1 HIGH BRIGHTNESS PUMP MODULES

- 10086 02 **Recent brightness improvements of 976 nm high power laser bars** [10086-32]
- 10086 03 **600 W high brightness diode laser pumping source** [10086-1]
- 10086 04 **Highly-efficient high-power pumps for fiber lasers** [10086-2]
- 10086 05 **Advances in high-brightness fiber-coupled laser modules for pumping multi-kW CW fiber lasers** [10086-3]
- 10086 06 **High-brightness and high-efficiency fiber-coupled module for fiber laser pump with advanced laser diode** [10086-4]
- 10086 07 **Advances in the power, brightness, weight and efficiency of fiber-coupled diode lasers for pumping and direct diode applications** [10086-5]

SESSION 2 HIGH BRIGHTNESS DIODE SOURCES

- 10086 08 **kW-class direct diode laser for sheet metal cutting based on commercial pump modules** [10086-6]
- 10086 09 **Continued improvement in reduced-mode (REM) diodes enable 272 W from 105 μ m 0.15 NA beam** [10086-7]
- 10086 0A **Development of a 300W 105/0.15 fiber pigtailed diode module for additive manufacturing applications** [10086-8]
- 10086 0B **Tailored bars at 976 nm for high-brightness fiber-coupled modules** [10086-9]

SESSION 3 HIGH POWER BARS

- 10086 0C **kW-class diode laser bars** [10086-10]
- 10086 0D **Ultimate high power operation of 9xx-nm single emitter broad stripe laser diodes** [10086-11]

- 10086 OE **Progress in joule-class diode laser bars and high brightness modules for application in long-pulse pumping of solid state amplifiers** [10086-12]
- 10086 OF **High-power laser diodes with high polarization purity** [10086-13]
- 10086 OG **Design and characterization of a novel power over fiber system integrating a high power diode laser** [10086-14]

SESSION 4 NEW WAVELENGTH DEVICES

- 10086 OH **Miniaturized laser amplifier modules for wavelengths of 1180 nm with PM-fiber input and more than 1 W optical output power** [10086-15]
- 10086 OJ **Development of highly-efficient laser diodes emitting at around 1060nm** [10086-17]
- 10086 OK **1180 nm GainNAs quantum well based high power DBR laser diodes** [10086-18]
- 10086 OL **Green, yellow and bright red (In,Ga,Al)P–GaP diode lasers grown on high-index GaAs substrates** [10086-19]
- 10086 OM **Broadened waveguide laser structures at 780 nm** [10086-20]
- 10086 ON **High power fiber coupled diode lasers for display and lighting applications** [10086-21]

SESSION 5 HIGH BRIGHTNESS LASER DIODES AND RELIABILITY

- 10086 OO **Coherent beam combining architectures for high power tapered laser arrays** [10086-22]
- 10086 OP **About the impact of the materials properties in the catastrophic degradation of high power GaAs based laser diodes** [10086-23]
- 10086 OQ **Unraveling the phase-amplitude coupling modulation in a delay-coupled diode lasers functionality** [10086-24]
- 10086 OR **Non-uniform DFB-surface-etched gratings for enhanced performance high power, high brightness broad area lasers** [10086-25]
- 10086 OS **Catastrophic optical bulk degradation (COBD) in high-power single- and multi-mode InGaAs-AlGaAs strained quantum well lasers** [10086-26]

SESSION 6 LASER DIODE PACKAGING I: JOINT SESSION WITH CONFERENCES 10085 AND 10086

- 10086 OU **Individualized FAC on bottom tab subassemblies to minimize adhesive gap between emitter and optics** [10086-28]

POSTER SESSION

- 10086 0V **Disruptive laser diode source for embedded LIDAR sensors** [10086-29]
10086 0W **An auto-locked diode laser system for precision metrology** [10086-30]
10086 0Y **High power single lateral mode 1050 nm laser diode bar** [10086-33]

Authors

Numbers in the index correspond to the last two digits of the seven-digit citation identifier (CID) article numbering system used in Proceedings of SPIE. The first five digits reflect the volume number. Base 36 numbering is employed for the last two digits and indicates the order of articles within the volume. Numbers start with 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 0A, 0B...0Z, followed by 10-1Z, 20-2Z, etc.

Acklin, Bruno, 0Y
Aho, Antti T., 0K
Alegria, Kim, 07
Bachmann, Alexander, 02, 0B
Bao, L., 05, 09
Baum, Christoph, 0U
Beica, H. C., 0W
Beleke, Andreas, 0U
Berezin, I., 04
Berishev, I., 04
Bian, Zhixi, 0Y
Biesenbach, Jens, 0B, 0N
Blonder, Moshe, 0F
Blume, Gunnar, 0H
Bödefeld, R., 0E
Boergmann, F., 08
Braglia, Andrea, 0A
Braker, Joe, 07
Brand, T., 08
Brecher, Christian, 0U
Brodie, Miles, 0S
Bugge, Frank, 0H
Butler, Jerome, 0M
Candl, Celine, 0V
Carew, A., 0W
Chao, Wei-sheng, 0G
Chen, Kun-hsein, 0G
Chen, Xiaohua, 03
Chen, Z., 05, 09
Cherkashin, N. A., 0L
Chuyanov, V., 04
Crump, P., 0C, 0E, 0O, 0R
Dawson, D., 05, 09
Decker, J., 0O, 0R
DeVito, M., 05, 09
Di Meo, A., 08
Dong, W., 09
Dowling, P., 0W
Drovs, Simon, 08, 0N
Dumitrescu, Michael, 0K
Dürsch, Sascha, 0N
Ebert, Chris, 07
Eppich, Bernd, 0H
Erbert, G., 0C, 0O, 0R
Evans, Gary, 0M
Fan, Li, 0Y
Fassbender, W., 0E
Feise, David, 0H
Fricke, J., 0R
Furitsch, Michael, 02
Gapontsev, V., 04
Georges, P., 0O
Gordeev, N. Yu., 0L
Grimshaw, M., 09
Guan, X., 09
Guina, Mircea, 0K
Guiney, Tina, 07
Guo, Weirong, 03
Guo, Zhijie, 03
Haag, Sebastian, 0U
Hanna, M., 0O
Hein, J., 0E
Hemenway, M., 05, 09
Hoffmann, D., 08
Hofmann, Julian, 0H
Holly, C., 08
Hsu, Chin-wei, 0G
Huang, Jin, 0M
Huelsewede, R., 0J
Irwin, David, 07
Janicot, S., 0O
Jedzejczyk, Daniel, 0H
Jiang, Linglin, 0M
Jiménez, J., 0P
Kaifuchi, Yoshikazu, 06, 0D
Kanskar, M., 05, 09
Karow, M. M., 0C, 0E
Kasai, Yohei, 06
Kaul, T., 0C
Kissel, Heiko, 0B
Kliner, D., 05
Klumel, Genady, 0F
Knigge, S., 0E
Kohl, Andreas, 0V
Köhler, Bernd, 0B, 0N
Komissarov, A., 04
König, Harald, 02, 0B
Körner, J., 0E
Koskinen, Mervi, 0K
Kulagina, M. M., 0L
Kumar, Pramod, 0Q
Kumarakrishnan, A., 0W
Lauer, Christian, 02, 0B
Laugustin, Arnaud, 0V
Ledentsov, N. N., 0L
Li, Jingwei, 0Y
Lingley, Zachary, 0S
Liu, Guoli, 0Y

Lommel, M., 0C
 Lotz, J., 0E
 Loyo-Maldonado, V., 0J
 Lucas-Leclin, G., 0O
 Maaßdorf, A., 0E, 0R
 Martinsen, R., 05, 09
 Maximov, M. V., 0L
 McInerney, John Gerard, 0Q
 Meissner-Schenk, A. H., 0C
 Meusel, J., 0J
 Miftakhutdinov, D., 04
 Morales, John, 0Y
 Morohashi, Rintaro, 0D
 Moshegov, N., 04
 Moss, Steven C., 0S
 Müller, Martin, 02
 Müller, Tobias, 0U
 Neukum, J., 0E
 Nogawa, Ryoaburo, 0D
 Ovtchinnikov, A., 04
 Pal, Vishwa, 0Q
 Paschke, Katrin, 0H
 Payusov, A. S., 0L
 Peleg, Ophir, 0F
 Perales, Mico, 0G
 Perrone, Guido, 0A
 Peters, Michael, 0Y
 Phan, Duy, 0M
 Pietrzak, A., 0J
 Pouliot, A., 0W
 Presser, Nathan, 0S
 Pura, J. L., 0P
 Rabot, Olivier, 0V
 Raisky, O., 04
 Rappaport, Noam, 0F
 Rosenkrantz, Etai, 0F
 Rossi, Giammarco, 0A
 Rubel, D., 08
 Sahn, Alexander, 0H
 Sakamoto, Akira, 06
 Sauer, Sebastian, 0U
 Schimmel, G., 0O
 Schleuning, David, 0Y
 Schmidt, B., 0C
 Schneider, F., 08
 Schuckert, Mark, 0M
 Sebastian, J., 0J
 Shchukin, V. A., 0L
 Shernyakov, Yu. M., 0L
 Sin, Yongkun, 0S
 Singh, G., 0W
 Sinha, Sudeshna, 0Q
 Smith, Daniel, 0M
 Song, Kuiyan, 03
 Souto, J., 0P
 Stapleton, Dean, 07
 Strauß, Uwe, 02, 0B
 Strohmaier, S. G., 0C
 Tanaka, Daiichiro, 06
 Tamm, Jens W., 0B
 Torres, A., 0P
 Tränkle, G., 0E, 0R
 Traub, M., 08, 0O
 Trubenko, P., 04
 Unger, Andreas, 08, 0N
 Urbanek, W., 05, 09
 Viheriälä, Jukka, 0K
 Virtanen, Heikki, 0K
 Vorozcovs, A., 0W
 Wang, Baohua, 03
 Werner, Nils, 0H
 Winhold, Heiko, 0Y
 Witte, U., 08, 0O
 Wolf, Paul, 0B
 Wu, Cheng-liang, 0G
 Xu, Dan, 03
 Xu, Ray, 03
 Xu, Zuntu, 0Y
 Yamada, Yumi, 0D
 Yamagata, Yuji, 06, 0D
 Yamaguchi, Masayuki, 0D
 Yang, Mei-huan, 0G
 Yanson, Dan, 0F
 Young, Preston, 0M
 Yu, Hao, 0A
 Zahuranec, Terry, 0G
 Zhang, S., 09
 Zhang, Tujia, 03
 Zontar, Daniel, 0U
 Zorn, M., 0J

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- 4 New Wavelength Devices
Friedrich G. Bachmann, FriBa LaserNet (Germany)

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Robert Martinsen, nLIGHT Corporation (United States)

- 6 Laser Diode Packaging I: Joint Session with Conferences 10085
and 10086
Paul O. Leisher, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (United States)
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Introduction

The conference this year featured 33 papers on high power diode laser systems, high power fiber coupled devices, laser diode reliability, coherent combining of laser systems and several unique applications as well as a joint conference with the Components and Packaging for Laser Systems III. Laser diode pump bar technology continues to advance the commercial CW power levels moving toward a commercially viable 1 kW CW laser diode bar.

The conference committee challenges the community to present new laser diode bar ideas and technologies next year.

Several important papers explored improved laser diode brightness, with significant progress in coherent beam combining, while these results are still at the research level, there is a clear path to high brightness high power direct diode laser systems.

Next year, the committee plans to include a new direction for high power industrial lasers – high power visible laser diode systems.

Mark Zediker

