

Editorial: The first year

Our new Journal Laser & Photonics Reviews (LPR) is celebrating its first anniversary. Reason enough for us to give you a retrospect of the past year and to report about important changes. Moreover, we feel that this is the right time to thank all our authors who spend their precious time in providing the community with articles that hopefully will soon belong to the standard references in the field.

Starting a new journal is always a challenge. Although it appeared to us that a review journal on subjects like Lasers and Photonics is highly desirable for the fast growing research community, it was not predictable how such an enterprise will be received by scientists, developers, lecturers, and students. Now, more than a year later the positive responses have reassured us that we are on the right way and that our readers appreciate the efforts we have undertaken to invite and attract the best known experts in the field of Lasers and Photonics to contribute to our journal. Although the manuscripts have been delivered in high quality it is worth mentioning that the peer-reviewing process ensures an even improved quality by simply adding further expertise and second opinion to the subjects in question. Nowadays, where time seems to be a vanishing treasure as valuable as oil wells, we deeply appreciate that there are scientists who care for quality and who spend hours reading long, sometimes even very long (e.g. Kaminskii, 2007, LPR, 2, 93–177) manuscripts to provide us with their opinion. Thanks to all of them!

In March 2008 I took over responsibilities as Editor of Laser & Photonics Reviews from Alexander Grossmann. As one of the founders and publisher of the journal he enabled a successful start of LPR and we appreciate his powerful commitment.

In addition to the close collaboration with the Founding Editors it is planned to introduce an Advisory Board that will strengthen our scientific expertise and regional presence on the globe.

Furthermore, some technical changes have been made. In January 2008, we have introduced Manuscript Central (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/lpr>) as our online tool for article submission and peer-reviewing, enabling an easier submission process and faster reviewing times.

We hope you appreciate the new layout of the inside front and back cover pages of the print edition (editors and imprint) and the Editorial Board web-page where we introduced portrait pictures of the Editors and Editorial staff

members. Finally, this journal will stay freely available as online journal throughout the year of 2009 via the successful Wiley Opt-in model (free online access via your institute or library account*). Thus, the high visibility of Laser & Photonics Reviews will remain and strengthen our standing in the community.

This issue provides reviews on long-wavelength semiconductor disk lasers, surface plasmon polaritonic crystals, metal-nanoparticle plasmonics, light propagation in multi-step index optical fiber and design studies of GRIN optical components for coupling and interconnects. I hope you enjoy reading the articles.

Guido W. Fuchs
Berlin, June 2008
Editor Laser & Photonics Reviews
Wiley-VCH



Guido W. Fuchs studied physics at the University of Cologne (Germany) and the University of Cape Town (RSA). In 2003 he received his Ph. D. from the University of Cologne, Germany, for his work on carbon chain molecules, their production and spectroscopic detection, in the group of Prof. G. Winnewisser. He did part of his research at the group of Prof. P. Thaddeus at the Harvard University, Cambridge, USA. G. Fuchs worked on laser based spectroscopic experiments and, additionally, also performed astrophysical observations. In 2003 he received the Sir Harold Thompson Memorial Award. In the following year he stayed one year as Humboldt research fellow at the University of California at Berkeley to study far infrared spectroscopy on supersonic cluster jets. From 2004 to 2006 he worked at the Sackler Laboratory at the Leiden University, on cryogenic solids and grain surface related problems. G. Fuchs joined the *physica status solidi* journals in 2007 and became Editor of the Laser & Photonics Reviews in 2008.

* (http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/aboutus/new_journals_opt-in_form.html)