

PREFACE

In this issue we continue publishing the reports presented at the second International Conference on Pulsed Lasers on Atomic and Molecular Transitions that was held in Tomsk in March 1995. A part of the reports was published in the topical issue of *SPIE: Atomic and Molecular Pulsed Lasers*, vol. 2619 (1995) and in our journal *Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics*, vol. 8, No. 11 (1995). In this issue, as in the previous one, the papers are classified in the following sections:

- gas lasers (including metal-vapor lasers) and physical processes in them;
- dye lasers and photoprocesses in compound organic molecules;
- incoherent sources of UV and VUV radiation, laser radiation conversion;
- laser systems and their applications.

Since the Conference was aimed at discussing development and investigations of laser systems and their various applications, not all papers presented in this collection are closely related to the subject of the journal *Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics*. However, we decide to include them in this issue in order to give the reader a comprehensive idea about the problems considered at the Conference.

Remind that regular Third Conference will be held in Tomsk in September 1997.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to thank the Editorial Board of the journal *Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics* for the opportunity to publish, in the shortest time, the proceedings of the Conference.

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