

FOREWORD

Dear readers:

This issue of the journal completes the publication of proceedings of the Third International Conference on Atomic and Molecular Pulsed Lasers (AMPL'97) held in Tomsk, September 22–26, 1997. The first part of material has already been published in number 11 of the journal in 1997. Its second part is being published simultaneously with the present issue of the journal in the thematic issue of SPIE Proceedings on Atomic and Molecular Pulsed Lasers (1998).

A lot of credit for organization and work of the Conference at a high level must go to the Institute of Atmospheric Optics of the SB RAS, the Institute of High-Current Electronics of the SB RAS, the Tomsk State University, the Siberian Physical-Technical Institute, and the Russian Division of SPIE. The Conference was supported morally and financially by the Russian Foundation for Basic Researches, the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, and sponsors.

More than 150 specialists from leading scientific centers of Russia, the USA, France, Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands took part at the Conference. More than 200 reports were delivered and discussed on the following topics:

- *gas and plasma lasers,*
- *metal vapor lasers,*
- *physical processes in gas lasers,*
- *dye lasers and photoprocesses in complex organic molecules,*
- *laser systems and their applications.*

All these topics are presented in the articles published in this issue.

The Organizing Committee of the Conference greatly appreciates the editorial staff and the board of the journal for the opportunity to publish quickly the most interesting materials.

The Organizing Committee informs the readers that the Fourth International Conference on Atomic and Molecular Pulsed Lasers will be held traditionally in Tomsk in September 1999 and has pleasure to invite those who wish to attend the Conference.

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