

Corporate member coordinates two consortia

Two projects will unite researchers all over Europe.



Wolfgang Sandner, coordinator of LASERLAB-EUROPE, speaks at November's inauguration ceremony.

A European consortium of 17 national laser institutions has been granted €14 m over four years to establish an integrated infrastructure initiative. LASERLAB-EUROPE is designed to strengthen the networking between large national laboratories within the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme.

LASERLAB-EUROPE is coordinated by Wolfgang Sandner, director of the Max Born Institute in Berlin, Germany. The initiative was launched at an inauguration ceremony on 10 November 2003, which was held at the Academy of Sciences in Prague, the Czech Republic. The Czech deputy prime minister Petr Mares and the minister of education Petra Buzkova were both present.

Lasers are becoming increasingly important in all areas of science and technology, so LASERLAB-EUROPE aims to unite most of Europe's largest national laboratories in interdisciplinary laser research. The consortium also includes smaller institutions with specialist expertise and equipment.

The consortium intends to use a novel Web-based "virtual infrastructure" to integrate the research carried out by its members. To help achieve this LASERLAB-EUROPE has a research laboratory that specializes in Internet services and communications.

LASERLAB-EUROPE also hopes to strengthen Europe's leading role in laser research through joint research activities. These will focus on the ultimate control of intense, short-pulse laser light, and overcoming the technological barriers on the route towards high power and high intensity.

The consortium promises to provide researchers across Europe with nearly 4000 days of access to laser facilities.

The Max Born Institute, which is a corporate member of the EOS, is also coordinating a European project on multifunctional materials based on double tungstate crystals. These crystals have promising applications in optoelectronics, the construction of efficient lasers and optical cooling.

The project has a total investment of €3.3 m and includes three partners from industry and six research institutes from six European countries. Their aim is to study systematically the properties and potential applications of double tungstate crystals. The consortium is coordinated by Valentin Petrov of the Max Born Institute.

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