

## Editorial

F.J.M. Harren · V. Konov

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The International Conference on Advanced Laser Technologies ALT10 was held in the conference center Hotel Zuiderduin in Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands, during the period September 11–16, 2010. The ALT conference series provides a frame for presenting the latest developments in laser technology and laser applications in various areas. This series of conferences is held annually since 1993 and was established by Nobel Prize laureate Alexander Prokhorov, director of the General Physics Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. Previous conferences were organized across Europe, and once in China. The present ALT10 conference was a joint organization by the General Physics Institute in Moscow and the host: the Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands. The main topics of the ALT10 were Lasers, Laser processing of materials, Ultrafast optics, Photoacoustics, Biophotonics, Terahertz technologies and Active optical sensing.

Next to the conference chairman Ivan Shcherbakov (Russia), the organizing committee consisted of Vitaly Konov (Russia), Frans Harren (the Netherlands), Carsten Fallnich (Germany), Ssirang Manohar (the Netherlands), Stefan Persijn (the Netherlands), Vladimir Pustovoy (Russia), Wim van der Zande (the Netherlands), Natalia Khakamova (Russia), and Simona Cristescu (the Netherlands). The committee recommended a list of 18 invited speakers. The conference was organized in plenary and parallel sessions, which

gave the participants the opportunity to present their work in 110 oral contributions and 54 poster contributions. A total of 182 participants came from 26 countries, of which 35% came from Russia and 10% from countries outside Europe. From this conference 26 papers are published in this special issue of Applied Physics B, they were all refereed according to the high standards of the journal and therefore we would like to thank the reviewers for all their help in reviewing the articles.

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We would like to thank those who supported the local organization and made the conference a success: Erna Gouwens van Oss, who was the key person in the conference secretariat, Ine Meijer, Denis Arslanov, Denys Marchenko, Cor Sikkens, and Arjan Van Vliet. Finally, the task of preparing this Special Issue would have been impossible without the professional help of editor-in-chief Frank Träger and Jutta Kaisig at the University of Kassel.

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F.J.M. Harren (✉)  
Institute of Molecules and Materials, Radboud University,  
P.O. Box 9010, 6500GL Nijmegen, The Netherlands  
e-mail: [F.Harren@science.ru.nl](mailto:F.Harren@science.ru.nl)

V. Konov  
Natural Sciences Center, General Physics Institute, 119991,  
Moscow, Russia