

Press Release: **CLEO®/Europe 2007**

The European Conference on Lasers and Electro-optics (CLEO®/Europe) is to be held in Munich in June 2007 (17th to 22nd) - in conjunction with the International Quantum Electronics Conference (IQEC). CLEO®/Europe is the leading European conference in the fields of lasers, optoelectronics and photonics more generally – and it is likely that there will be more than 1500 participants coming from all over Europe, as well as further afield.

The scope of the conference is wide-ranging, including work on the brightest light sources that mankind can produce – and the microscopically small, but highly efficient, semiconductor lasers that are currently being manufactured and sold in quantities measured in hundreds of millions per annum. These semiconductor lasers have become the most widely used sources for coherent (single colour) light for all visible colours - as well as for the infra-red and ultra-violet parts of the spectrum. Their combination of efficiency and low cost is the result of the dedicated and creative work of many thousands of physicists, engineers and materials scientists, across the world. The conference scope also covers the technology and science behind the latest generation of large area flat-screen televisions - and the most recent developments in robotic lasers that can cut through any kind of material with unprecedented speed and accuracy.

Highlights of the CLEO®/Europe-IQEC joint conference will be plenary presentations by two of the world's leading experts in the science and technology of light and lasers. Frenchman Gérard Mourou will be talking about the most powerful lasers ever produced, while joint Nobel prize-winner for the year 2005, Theodore (Ted) Hänsch, of Munich's Max Planck Institute, will talk about his work on using lasers as precision standards for frequency. One of the two people who shared the 2005 prize with Ted Hänsch, John (Jan) Hall of America's National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder, Colorado, will give a personal introduction to the symposium on Optical Frequency Comb Generation. Another event due to be staged during the conference is a session at which scientists and research engineers who have made important personal contributions to the advancement of the field will be recognised by two of the learned societies that are sponsoring this conference, the European Physical Society (EPS) and the Optical Society of America (OSA). Recognition will be both via the award of a medal and through the award of 'Fellowship', the top-ranking status of the awarding institution. On Thursday 21st June, a further special event will be staged to honour the memory of Professor Herbert Walther, the internationally recognised and distinguished laser scientist who worked at the Max Planck Institute, just outside Munich in Garching - and who died in July 2006.

More than twelve hundred scientific and technical papers will be presented at the meeting, either from the rostrum or as posters designed to stimulate scientific discussion. The combined event will be the largest of its kind held in Europe this year.