

Valentin Pavlovich Gapontsev

O.N. Krokhin



Valentin Pavlovich Gapontsev, a prominent Russian scientist and organiser of research and development in the field of laser technologies, president of the International Corporation IPG-Photonics was 70 on 23 February 2009.

After post-graduating from the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology in 1967, Valentin Pavlovich joined the Fryazino Branch of the Institute of Radio Engineering and Electronics of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. The main field of his scientific interest here was the development and investigation of laser glasses. Valentin Pavlovich actively participated in the manu-

facturing and promotion of highly efficient phosphate glasses. The results of these studies were defended by twenty International patents. Valentin Pavlovich and his collaborators also developed highly efficient laser glasses doped with Er ions.

A new stage in the scientific activity of V.P. Gapontsev began in the 1980s–1990s, when he substantiated (together with I.E. Samartsev) the possibility of manufacturing fibre lasers with cw output powers achieving tens and hundreds of watts. The manufacturing technology of such lasers developed by V.P. Gapontsev, which includes the entire cycle of works – from pioneering research and development studies to commercial production of laser devices, provided the production of various fibre lasers, including super-high-power technological lasers (the output power of cw fibre lasers produced by IPG-Photonics exceeds 50 kW).

Apart from the production of fibre lasers, V.P. Gapontsev organised the development and manufacturing of various laser-based devices used in fibreoptic communication systems, medical instruments, and metal working complexes. The outstanding achievements of V.P. Gapontsev and his collaborators in the field of fibre lasers make a considerable contribution to the development of laser industry.

Valentin Pavlovich pays great attention to the teaching of researchers for laser industry. He is a head of a chair at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and took part in the creation of laser technology centres at the Moscow of Engineering and Physics Institute, N.E. Bauman Moscow State Technical University, and MSTU ‘Stankin’.

The Editorial Board, Editorial Council and Editorial Staff of Quantum Electronics congratulate Valentin Pavlovich with his jubilee and wish him sound health and further creative successes.

O.N. Krokhin. P.N. Lebedev Physics Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninsky prosp. 53, 119991 Moscow, Russia