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Andrew Forbes

Todd E. Lizotte

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Introduction

At the end of the day on August 4th, we completed the tenth conference on Laser Beam Shaping (LBSX 2009) at the Annual Optics + Photonics Conference in San Diego, CA. This is a major milestone for the conference, whose success is due in no small part to the prescience of the inaugurating chairs, Dr. Fred Dickey, Scott Holswade, and Prof. David Shealy, who oversaw the first conference and sustained it during its first eight years.

Over the past ten years we have been able to witness the evolution of Laser Beam Shaping from its initial footholds in telecom and laser printing to its broader applications in laser resonators, laser materials processing and biomedical applications.

As we move forward it will be vital that the Laser Beam Shaping Conference adjust its focus in harmony with the natural evolutionary state of Laser Beam Shaping technologies; nevertheless we need to be mindful and vigilant to the guiding principle, that no matter if you come from academia or industry, this conference should allow for the building of strong relationships with one another by introducing, cultivating and testing new ideas as well as an introduction to real world applications.

It is essential that we all participate to drive and maintain Laser Beam Shaping technology to promote innovation that will ultimately bring forward new solutions to the marketplace. As always we will take a fresh look at old processes, take calculated risks and push the envelope. This drive is not an individual act, but a partnership between all of us to understand that sometimes simple participation and sharing of new ideas and concepts can translate into new business opportunities for all.

We look forward to many more years and thank you for supporting the first ten.

Todd E. Lizotte
Andrew Forbes

