

THE LASER USER

ISSUE 99
WINTER 2021

AILU

IN THIS ISSUE:

Hollow core fibres

Interference patterning

Anti-bacterial surfaces

Medical wire stripping

Automotive laser welding



**GROUND-BREAKING
ONLINE SYMPOSIUM:
ILAS 2021 - NETWORKING
WITHOUT BORDERS**

THE LASER USER

Editor: Dave MacLellan
Sub-Editor: Catherine Rose

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The Laser User is the house magazine of the Association of Industrial Laser Users. Its primary aim is to disseminate technical information and to present the views of its members. The views and opinions expressed in this magazine belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of AILU.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any submissions for space and other considerations.

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Cover image: A high power diode laser in the blue wavelength (450 nm) performs pore-free cladding (Laser Metal Deposition) with copper powder onto a copper workpiece.

Courtesy of Laserline GmbH, Germany

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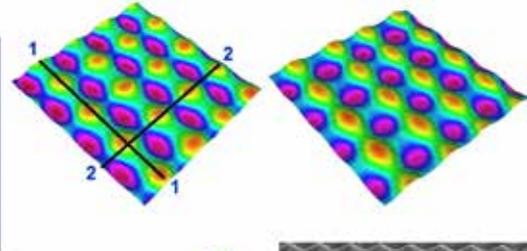
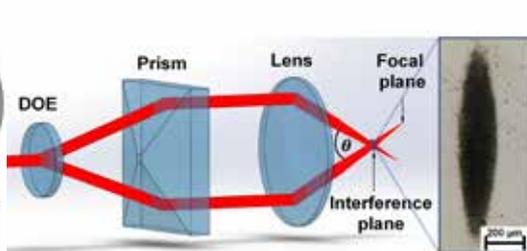
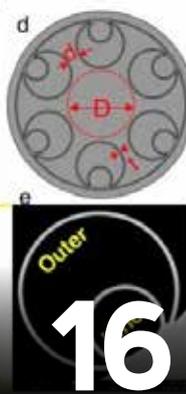
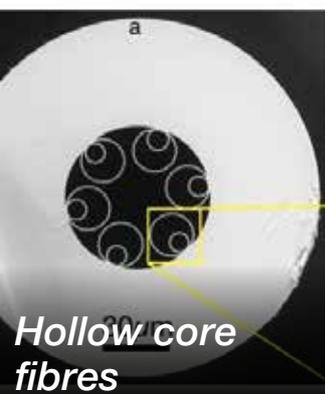
Past presidents and founder members are also able to attend committee meetings. Anyone wishing to join the AILU Steering Committee please contact the Executive Director.

WELCOME TO NEW AILU MEMBERS

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SS Laser Solutions
 Sinan Bilgin
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HIGHLIGHTS...



Hollow core fibres

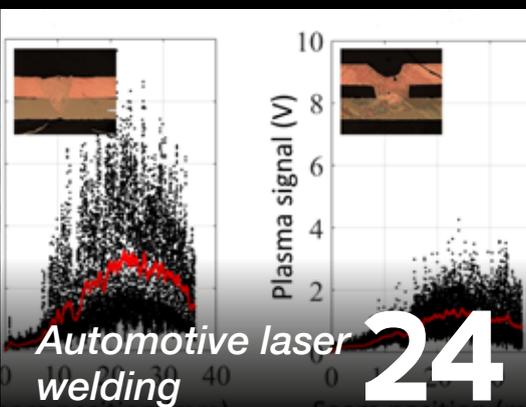
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ASSOCIATION NEWS

FIRST WORD

Here's hoping that 2021 sees you all well and that before the year is out we will meet in the real world and not just online. Until then, don't hesitate to pick up the phone, send an email or WhatsApp me, as we are always happy to catch up with members we haven't seen for a while.

AILU has been going since 1995, but every year sees something new and this year it is our first ever full ILAS online. We are excited about the prospect of networking and gathering the extensive ILAS community in one place over 2 days, even if it is online. If you haven't registered yet, it is still possible to join as an exhibitor, delegate or sponsor – this might be the first chance to meet so many people in one event. I recommend you spend plenty of time networking. If you don't have the chance to see all the presentations you would like, don't worry as they will be available for 12 months on video online to watch later.

See you soon at ILAS!

Dave MacLellan
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow laser enthusiasts,

I'll begin with a late but heartfelt wish for a Happy New Year to you all – we hope you and your families are managing to stay safe and well, and have found ways to cope with the added pressures that daily life now brings.

The Christmas period brought some welcome news to UK, with the MHRA approval of the AstraZeneca vaccine, as well as the long-awaited agreement on a trade deal between the UK and the EU. Although there are clearly some turbulent times ahead over the next few months, I think these two announcements, and the subsequent rate at which vaccinations are progressing in the UK, point to a more stable (normal?) future in the medium-term. I'm certainly looking forward to the time when I no longer have to spend my days finding a balance between my duties for my long-standing employer (TWI) and that of Head Teacher at the newly established Blackburn comprehensive in East Anglia. I have been told that my OFSTED rating will not be favourable.

2020 was also not a straightforward for AILU, with the postponement of ILAS and the inability to run physical workshops having quite an impact on the Association. We're fortunate to have a very hard-working and dedicated team at AILU, who have adapted well to the challenges faced over the last year. A great example of this is the upcoming

ILAS, which will be held virtually on the 24th and 25th March. We've selected an online platform that will include everything you have come to expect from this first-class symposium;

- **Plenary presenters**
- **Three parallel sessions of presentations including keynote speakers**
- **A full exhibition – with online interactivity – meet exhibitors 1-to-1**
- **Live discussion panels on key topics**
- **Excellent networking opportunities – an online Meeting Hub to meet other delegates live or to suit your schedule**
- **Symposium Awards, including entertainment – apply now if you have musical skills to display!**

The virtual format should also be more inclusive, as it significantly reduces the costs to attend - in registration and travel/accommodation fees, as well as the cost of evening 'refreshments'. Please think about who in your organisation could benefit from attending (I've not been to a symposium for nearly 1 year!) and visit the symposium website for more details – ilas2021.co.uk

Stay safe,

Jon

Jon Blackburn
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RIC'S RAMBLINGS

It's a new dawn, a new day, a new [year] – and I'm feeling good... or so the classic song (almost) goes. Well that was what we were supposed to be like post our little festive breaks- but hey ho, here we are again –all revved up and no place to go (don't worry I'll drop the "link it to a song" theme now).

I thought I would pick up a bit on the subject of my ramblings last quarter – the challenge of doing good, effective and productive business when we can't be in the same room together. I don't know about you but I am finding the new world of on-line conferences and webinars a bit of a mixed bag. On one hand the delegate numbers have dramatically increased and in some cases appear to be through the roof, for a number of webinars that I've attended. This is great, we are reaching far more people and engaging with a much broader audience. All this without having to fight for a seat on a train packed to the rafters and losing 2-3 hours of productive time travelling across the country.

However, I find doing a presentation over a webinar lacks the visual feedback I enjoy as a presenter. When we do talks we take energy (or otherwise) from the audience. We build our enthusiasm if points go down well, or pull back a bit if clearly the audience are not with you on that particular point. Online it is much harder to get the buzz from the audience. As time goes by, I am sure the technology will improve the experience.

Then we consider being a member of the audience. If you have travelled, invested that time and battled on that train – you are much more receptive to the talks and speakers. You want to learn and be entertained. But it is much harder to focus when you are at home in your spare bedroom and there are other distractions around. Apart from the dog coming in or a small child requiring a Penguin biscuit, we also get distracted by our emails or a website or whatever. This means we are not getting as much out of the webinar as we should. Hence if you are coming to ILAS online in March, I recommend you plan ahead and get yourself in a comfortable position – make sure you blend your time with networking and chatting to people – catching up with delegates you know and meeting new contacts.

So, I have a request –let's have a chat and meet at ILAS – I would love to know what you think and connect with many of you face-to-face online.

Ric Allott
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