



**Fraunhofer** Institut  
Lasertechnik

# Press release

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## **AKL '08: A network for brilliant ideas in laser technology**

**Up by 20 percent: around 500 participants gather in sunny Aachen in May**

Around 500 newcomers and experts from the industrial and scientific sectors flocked to the old imperial city for the International Laser Technology Congress – AKL '08 – which was held from 7 to 9 May. As the organizer, the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology (ILT) in Aachen was delighted to note an over 20-percent increase in the number of visitors over the previous congress, the AKL '06.

The sheer bandwidth of the 57 lectures was impressive indeed: They ranged from introductory and practical work-based presentations, to a newcomer seminar, accompanied by presentations from experts on new sources of laser beams and applications, such as polishing with lasers, and extending to reports on joint projects in the EU innovation forum “Laser Material Processing in Aeronautics,” which was accompanied by live presentations. The technology-business day yesterday took an expert look at the laser markets in Europe, the USA, Japan and China and was geared towards managers and executives, among others.

The participants will find out how it all happens in practice at 80 live presentations at the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology and at the companies in the laser application center. All users are sure to find some inspiration for their own service or products, whether this involves new options in the design of dashboards using laser-structured tools, innovative components for turbines that make use of laser deposition welding in new repair processes, or new concepts for eye-glasses provided by laser joining of plastics and metals. Users have a lot of opportunity to exchange information in depth with laser, component and system manufacturers at the highly popular sponsor exhibition. A total of 39 companies are prepared to answer the questions of experienced laser users and those new to the technology.

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