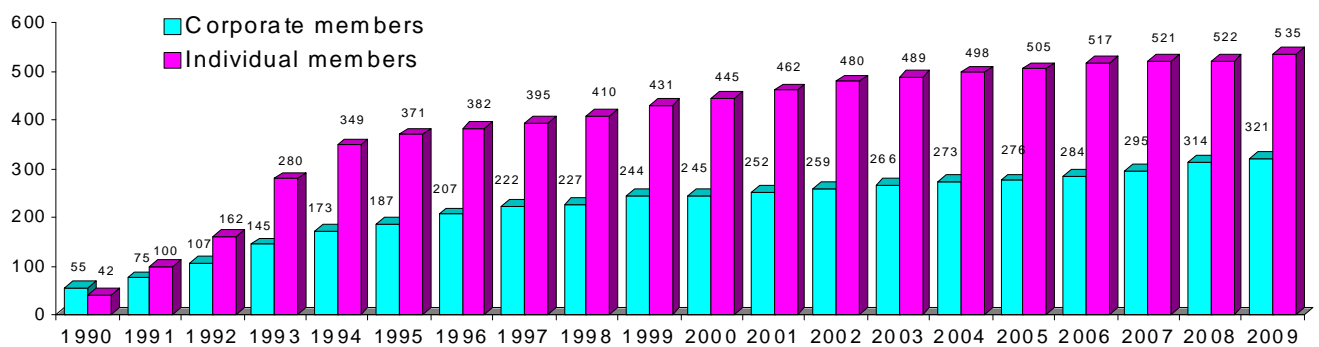


## LASER ASSOCIATION

According to its statute, Laser Association (LAS) is a professional society and a self-sustained non-commercial organization dedicated to advancing knowledge and practical use of laser science and engineering in CIS countries and Baltia. LAS was established in 1990 as the Laser Association of the USSR and after creation of the New Independent States on the territory of the former Soviet Union Laser Association was transformed to an international non-governmental organization, which unites (on the voluntary basis) various institutions and individuals focusing their activity to the laser market of CIS and Baltia countries.

321 corporate and more than 500 individual members have joined LAS in 1990-2009. They represent about 90 cities from 19 countries. Not all of them keep their “laser activity” now but nevertheless about 150 organizations paid their fees to LAS every year.

15 regional centers of LAS were established - in Armenia (Erevan), Byelarus (Minsk), Kazakhstan (Almaty), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek), Lithuania (Vilnius), Russia (Kazan, Moscow, Nizhni Novgorod, Novosibirsk, Samara, St.Petersburg, Tomsk, Vladivostok), Ukraine (Mykolayev), Uzbekistan (Tashkent).



At a moment research institutes of National Academies of Sciences account for 11% of all LAS corporate members, industrial R&D institutes and design bureaus – 20%, universities and university R&D centers – 14%, plants – 7%, small enterprises – 45%, medical organizations – 2%.

48% of LAS members are state institutions, 48% - private companies and firms, 8% - joint-stock corporations.

The main purpose of LAS is an assistance to its members in their professional activity in laser field. Information exchange, analysis and forecast, consulting, promotion of cooperations, help in education and further training, stimulating of the innovation projects – that are duties of LAS experts.

Every group of LAS members has their own main interest: researchers are looking for grants, international cooperation and creative specialists, manufacturers see to market perspectives and so on. But every such group can get valuable advice and support from LAS staff.

Election of the President and Scientific-Technical Council of LAS takes places every 4 years at LAS Congresses. These general congresses are hold every 2 years in Moscow.

**Main LAS activities are as follows:**

- Domestic laser-optical society problems are analyzed and discussed with the appropriate administrative arrangements, business circles and academic leaders.
- "Laser Inform" newsletter is published biweekly in Russian. It is available in hardcopy and via e-mail. "Photonics" magazine is published since 2007.
- Updated versions of CIS and Baltic laser firms product catalogues are published every 2 years, the Directory "Who is who in LAS" - every year.
- LAS database "Laser scene of CIS and Baltia" is developed and maintained. It is the unique source of information for any laser business in CIS and Baltic countries.
- LAS reference website with every week updated information on CIS laser landscape is maintained.
- Topical conferences, exhibitions and workshops are held regularly including International trade fair "Photonics" in Moscow every year.
- CIS countries Collegium of National Experts in Lasers & Laser Applications is formed by LAS every 3 years.
- LAS is a branch of European Optical Society (EOS).

Being a non-governmental organization, LAS actively contacts and collaborates with government bodies responsible for science, industry, medicine, higher education in CIS countries, with state foundations, that support R&D works and innovations, with international structures, promoting R&D cooperation of CIS and Baltic countries with Western Europe, USA, Japan, etc.

LAS members produce more than 90% of all models of domestic laser products, publish about 70% of all scientific papers on laser-related subjects in Russian language.

For its members – LAS is a consulting and coordinating body, an organizer of various events for laser-optical branch of industry.

For partners and customers – LAS is an independent expert, development centre for project proposals, business-plans, forecasts and recommendations in the field of laser and laser applications.

For domestic laser society – collective spokesman in administrative arrangements and in the international arena.

LAS Headquarters is in Moscow – at Vvedenski str., 3, build.1 Seven persons have their permanent jobs here.

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