Special Issue

Infrared Fiber Lasers and Their Applications in Materials Processing

Message from the Guest Editors

Progress in laser technology has always been stimulated by the development of new materials. This is also true for fiber lasers. Fiber lasers can be characterized by good quality of the output beam, small dimensions, high efficiency, excellent heat dissipation properties, and very good reliability. Due to these unique features, fiber lasers have been the key enabling technology for many applications. Recently, significant progress has also been achieved in the development of mid-infrared fiber lasers. The development of fiber lasers operating in the mid-infrared wavelength region can lead to novel material processing applications. Furthermore, many important compounds have strong absorption bands in the mid-infrared region. Therefore, lasers operating in this spectral region can potentially provide desirable enabling technology platforms for the development of novel, more compact and reliable materials processing systems. Thus, fiber lasers operating close to 3.4 µm could be instrumental to plastic processing systems that weld, cut, or engrave plastic.

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