

Press Release

Laserline Acquires Majority Stake in US Company WBC Photonics

Portfolio Expansion in the Area of Blue Industrial Diode Lasers is Key Focus of the Acquisition

By acquiring a 70 percent stake in Boston-based laser specialist WBC Photonics, Laserline is expanding its solution portfolio to include blue industrial diode lasers with particularly high beam quality. In addition to laser systems with CW output powers of currently up to 4 kW - currently the highest power level in the blue laser sector - the company now also offers lasers with very high focusability and beam qualities of 4 mm mrad and better.

Mülheim-Kärlich, 9th of September 2024 - Laserline has acquired 70 percent of the shares of the US laser specialist WBC Photonics, headquartered in Boston. Through this strategic acquisition, the German diode laser manufacturer is expanding its solution portfolio to include blue laser systems with particularly very high beam qualities of better than 4 mm mrad. This positions Laserline as a full-service provider for diode lasers in the blue wavelength range and covers a broad product spectrum from systems with high focusability to power levels in the multi-kW range.

WBC Photonics was founded through a management buyout of the former Panasonic subsidiary TeraDiode and produces high-power diode lasers in the NIR and blue wavelength spectrum. The high beam quality of the laser systems is achieved through emitter-based wavelength beam combining. The acquisition opens up new target markets for Laserline. The high focusability is important for applications in the field of additive manufacturing, welding, or cutting for example.

"The acquisition of WBC Photonics is a significant step on our path toward becoming the world's leading supplier of blue diode lasers. It enables us to offer even more powerful and versatile solutions in the field of blue industrial diode lasers to our customers - from exceptionally high beam qualities to unmatched high-power classes worldwide," say Dr. Christoph Ullmann, Managing Director of Laserline.

"Our new partnership with Laserline enables access to markets worldwide for high brightness blue lasers" said Michael Deutsch, CEO of WBC Photonics. "Together, we will become the world leader in blue diode laser technology."

Blue diode lasers

Blue diode lasers are now considered a key technology in electronics production, as they open up a wide range of new options for processing conductor materials in the non-ferrous metal sector. Light in the blue wavelength spectrum of 445 nm is absorbed five times better by copper and copper alloys than infrared radiation. Far less energy is therefore required to melt component surfaces than when using conventional infrared lasers. The first blue diode lasers therefore enabled controlled heat conduction welding of the highly conductive non-ferrous metals copper and gold for the first time. Since then, even the thinnest copper components can be joined without artificial material reinforcement.

About Laserline:

Laserline GmbH, based in Mülheim-Kärlich near Koblenz, was founded in 1997. The company is a world leader in the development and manufacture of extremely efficient, modular diode laser systems with blue and infrared wavelengths. Laserline high-power diode lasers achieve output powers of up to 60 kW. Based on decades of experience, Laserline develops customized laser solutions for industrial applications. More than 7,500 high-power diode lasers are currently in operation around the world, demonstrating their performance in a wide variety of processes and applications. The laser technology specialist currently employs around 400 people and has international subsidiaries in the USA, Mexico, Brazil, Japan, China, South Korea and India. Further information at www.laserline.com/en-int

About WBC Photonics:

The team at WBC Photonics is renowned for developing and manufacturing high-power NIR (Near Infrared) and blue diode lasers using wavelength beam combining technology first developed at MIT. This innovative approach enables the achievement of multi-kilowatt blue and NIR diode lasers with beam qualities better than 4 mm mrad.

WBC Photonics originated from a management buyout by former employees of Teradiode Innovation Center, a division of Panasonic in Wilmington, MA. WBC Photonics acquired the related assets and intellectual property from Panasonic, specifically those associated with the NIR and blue diode laser technology.

Contact Company:

Laserline GmbH
Stefan Aust

Fraunhofer Straße 5
D-56218 Mülheim-Kärlich
Phone +49 (0) 2630 964-1440
Fax +49 (0) 2630 964-1018
Stefan.Aust@laserline.com
www.laserline.com

Contact Company:

WBC Photonics Inc. GmbH
Michael Deutsch

30 Upton Dr STE 4
Wilmington, MA 01887
MichaelDeutsch@wbcphotonics.com
www.wbcphotonics.xyz

Contact agency:

riba:businesstalk GmbH

Michael Beyrau
Klostergut Besselich
D-56182 Urbar/Koblenz
Phone +49 (0)261-963 757-27
Fax +49 (0)261-963 757-11
mbeyrau@riba.eu
www.riba.eu