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Innovative Research with Ultrashort Pulsed Laser System Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) acquires LPKF ProtoLaser R4

The LPKF ProtoLaser R4 is a highly specialized precision picosecond laser system for research and development labs. The ultrashort pulse laser system further enhances the micromachining capabilities of the existing LPKF portfolio of turn-key, plug-and-play laser systems. Just six months after the product was launched, one of the world's leading research institutes, the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), has purchased and installed the first one in Germany.

The Institute of Radio Frequency Engineering and Electronics (IHE) at KIT can investigate innovative materials with the highest precision thanks to the latest laser technology. This research is accelerated through use of the system in conjunction with in-house production. Institute staff and students are thus well equipped for the future with the LPKF ProtoLaser R4.

Thanks to ProtoLaser R4's ultrashort laser pulses in the picosecond range, the Institute of Radio Frequency Engineering and Electronics (IHE) at KIT can etch and cut both thermally sensitive and very thin materials with outstanding results. All other common materials used in the electronics industry, from FR4 to extremely hard fired ceramics can be cut with the highest possible quality due to the unique properties of the high-speed picosecond pulse frequency. "Users of the new machine are pleased with the easy handling, which is made possible by the perfected, user-friendly LPKF CircuitPro software. This also applies to the compact design, which can easily be integrated into the lab," reports Jan-Hendrik Guttman, who familiarizes users at KIT with the system.

With years of experience under his belt, Stefan Kiel of the LPKF laser sales team also knows how difficult it can be to get approval for larger investments at public institutions on short notice: "Budgets are planned for the long term and the bureaucratic hurdles for larger investments are often high. The

Press Information

With a request for publication



very fast procurement confirms the urgent need for high-precision, turn-key laser systems at research institutes.”

LPKF presented the ProtoLaser R4 for the first time in January 2020 at the NEPCON trade show in Japan. Following the first ProtoLaser R4 sale to a university in California, KIT is now the first institute in Europe to drive innovative pioneering projects with the LPKF ProtoLaser R4. “The institute employees have ambitious goals and innovative ideas that they would like to realize with our new laser system for research,” Jan-Hendrik Guttman discovered during the orientation.



Image: M. Sc. Marius Kretschmann (left) from the Institute of Radio Frequency Engineering and Electronics (IHE) at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and Jan-Hendrik Guttman, LPKF, in front of the LPKF ProtoLaser R4 laser system

About LPKF:

LPKF Laser & Electronics is a leading provider of laser-based solutions for the technology industry. Laser systems from LPKF are key elements in the manufacturing of printed circuit boards, microchips, automotive parts, solar modules, and many other components. Founded in 1976, the company is headquartered in Garbsen, near Hannover, Germany, and its North American operations is located in Portland, OR.