
Guest Editor's Preface: ECLIM 2000 Special Issue

This issue of *Laser and Particle Beams* Journal contains the papers submitted for publication by participants of the 26th European Conference on Laser Interaction with Matter—this Conference (also known by its acronym ECLIM 2000) was organized jointly by the Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague, the Institute of Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, and supported by the International Society for Optical Engineering, this conference was held in Prague from June 12–16, 2000.

Over 230 participants from 21 countries took part in this gathering with high appearance from traditional high-power laser-matter interaction strongholds. The fact that no major laboratory from the whole world active in this field missed out to delegate their researchers contributed greatly to the ECLIM 2000 becoming a really representative scientific forum on the subject.

To honor its long tradition, the framework of the ECLIM 2000 was organized as one main stream of 38 invited and 54 contributed lectures with 112 posters on permanent display. The Conference papers were grouped to cover 10 major topics: Inertial Confinement Fusion; High-Power Laser Facilities; Theory and Simulation; Hydrodynamics and Instabilities; Equation of State; Ultrashort, Intense Laser-Matter

Interaction; Laser Generated X-rays; High Energy Phenomena; Fast Ignition, Intense Laser-Matter Interaction; Laser Acceleration.

Summaries of all 204 presentations can be found in the ECLIM 2000 Book of Abstracts (<http://eclim.fjfi.cvut.cz>). Short versions of the 126 papers were already published in the ECLIM 2000 Book of Proceedings (SPIE Volume 4424).

Moreover, the opportunity to publish the papers (carefully reviewed by distinguished referees) in this Special Issues of *Laser and Particle Beams* has already become a part of the ECLIM tradition. From ECLIM 2000, 23 of the papers were eventually accepted and will appear in this issue of *Laser and Particle Beams*.

I would like to thank all the authors as well as the referees for their essential contribution. My particular gratitude goes to the Conference Secretary for his professional help in handling the manuscripts.

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