

Tachisto Laser Discharge Heads The flexible alternative.

For laboratory R & D work in a variety of fields you need flexibility. And you want economy. The Tachisto 400XR Excimer Lasers and 215 CO₂ laser discharge heads supply both. These laser discharge heads are the flexible alternative to a complete laser system. They are completely assembled and require only power supply, gas, trigger unit and optics. A considerable saving for laboratories that have such equipment. Tachisto offers only what you need. The 400XR Series Excimer Lasers and the Model 215 CO₂ laser discharge heads — reliable guaranteed high energy lasers to set-up and operate within hours.

Specifications:

400XR:	425mJ KrF, 375mJ ArF, 150mJ XeF, 225mJ XeCl.
401XR:	750mJ KrF, 400mJ ArF, 400mJ XeF, 400mJ XeCl.
215:	2J at 10.6 μ , 15MW peak power.
Rep. Rate:	2Hz for 400XR, 401XR and 215.

Dimensions:

400XR/401XR: 26"L x 14"W x 12"H.
215: 30"L x 19"W x 3.75"H.

Weight:

400XR: 67 lbs.
401XR: 77 lbs.
215: 75 lbs.

Requirements:

Tachisto should be consulted for power supply, trigger, optics and gas requirements.

Prices:

400XR — \$6900
401XR — \$8900
215 — \$4500

For more information, call or write TACHISTO, Incorporated, 13 Highland Circle, Needham, MA 02194. TEL: (617) 444-9360. TWX: 710-325-1308.

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were probably the hardest seen to date. We wrote a report which appeared in *Phys Rev* 32, pp. 850-857 (Dec. 1928).

We will never know whether Charlie would have interested himself in high-voltage x rays had he not seen me working on the problem next door. Our paper has his name first because I do not like to argue, settled for a coin toss, and lost. If I ever knew about the patent I had forgotten it. Physicists did not have much interest in patents in those days.

RALPH D. BENNETT

8/81

San Francisco, California

Human rights in Latvia

On behalf of the Latvian Association in the United States, I would like to express our appreciation to the American Physical Society for supporting the human rights issue. Andrei Sakharov's article in the July issue was particularly welcome. I would like to call your attention to one aspect of human rights violations in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe that has not been touched upon. Examination of the names of "dissidents" under arrest listed in Sakharov's article reveals that a highly disproportionate number of them are Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, and Jews; 14 percent of those named in the article come from the Baltic States, while the Balts represent only less than 2 percent of the total population. This fact clearly demonstrates how the Soviets deal with their "nationality problem." It also demonstrates that brutal treatment by the Soviets will not discourage Estonians, Ukrainians and others from speaking out against their tyrant.

The fear of the idea of freedom spreading from Poland to surrounding lands has led to a sharp escalation of human rights violations in the Baltic States. Added to Sakharov's long list of imprisoned scientists can be the names of Janis Bumeistars, a Latvian electrical engineer, and Vytautas Skuodis, an American-born Lithuanian geological engineer. Bumeistars, a recognized expert in his field and author of numerous technical publications, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for treason. He was accused of being a CIA agent! Skuodis, protesting the oppression of religious rights and the continuing Soviet occupation of Lithuania, was sentenced to a seven-year term for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." (The Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania gained their independence in 1918. However, in 1940 they were forcibly occupied and illegally incorporated into the Soviet Union. This action was precipitated by the

Stalin-Hitler "peace pact" signed in 1939 whereby much of Eastern Europe was divided up among the two tyrants. The United States and most Western nations have not recognized the illegal annexation.) Skuodis is the second Balt who recently has gone on a hunger strike. Yuri Kukk, an Estonian scientist, died in a Soviet prison several months ago.

It is not only our social responsibility as scientists to speak out against these crimes against humanity, as Sakharov points out, but it is also a moral one. It is our hope that other technical societies and institutions follow your fine example.

MARIS A. MANTENIEKS

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8/81

The author is employed as a physicist at Lewis Research Center-NASA, Cleveland, Ohio.

International development

The American Physical Society recently established a Subcommittee on International Scientific Affairs (SISA) of its Panel on Public Affairs. SISA, under the chairmanship of J. William McGowan, organized a workshop under the title "The Focus of Physics on Science and Technology for Development" which was held 16-19 October 1980 at Baddeck, Nova Scotia, Canada.

For this meeting the APS invited around 30 physicists from developing countries to discuss—with colleagues from the US and Canada—ways to help the physics communities in developing countries to advance the knowledge of physics in their own countries. The participants of the workshop, members and nonmembers of the APS, agreed on 22 specific recommendations to the APS, which were unanimously accepted by the APS Council and thereby became the first program of action for the society in the area of physics and development.

If there were an active network of international contacts between physicists, many of the Baddeck recommendations could be carried out by members of the society on the basis of voluntary work, without the need of large external funding. Other such "low-cost" programs could be found and carried out as well.

Some of the APS members participating in the workshop felt that such a network could be organized within the APS, based on the nearly 5000 members of the society who live outside the US, in 100 countries. About 600 of these members live in developing countries.