# Up Close: Institute of Electronic Structure and Lasers at the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas

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This article is part of a series focusing on the research capabilities and goals of interdisciplinary laboratories pursuing materials research in universities, industry, and government

The Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), Crete, Greece, was formally founded in December 1982 under the auspices of the Greek Secretariat of Research and Technology. Until recently the foundation was known as the Research Center of Crete.

Following the successful examples of university/research center cooperation in other countries, FORTH—although an independent institution—is strongly affiliated with the University of Crete. It was, in fact, the university's faculty who planned and proposed the creation of the center.

The foundation's goals have remained the same since its inception:

• To execute quality scientific and applied research in carefully selected and diverse areas,

■ To support the evolution/development of high technology in Greece, both directly (e.g., specialized production activities and service offers) and indirectly (e.g., peerreview and consulting services to various national sectors, organizing and hosting scientific meetings), and

• To offer the means for developing graduate and training programs in frontier areas of science and technology.

Meeting these goals meant bypassing or at least alleviating inherent difficulties in Greece. These difficulties included, for example, lack of tradition in applied research, lack of support services, relative scientific isolation, and minimum national funding. (Among the EEC countries Greece still spends the least of its GNP for research and development.)

FORTH therefore based its founding strategies on a group of distinguished scientists, a network of state-of-the-art equipment, and an efficient form of organization. The strategies proved very effective. They facilitated the recruitment of other excellent Greek scientists from abroad, foreign and national visiting scientists, and postdoctoral fellows. But most importantly, they attracted substantial outside funding (mainly from EEC programs). FORTH's location on the island of Crete with its rich historical and intellectual background, natural beauty and excellent climate has also been among the assets contributing to the dynamic growth of the center.

The original organizational structure of the center included the central administration and the first five research institutes identified below. The current structure comprises the central administration and the following seven research institutes:

 Institute of Computer Science (ICS) with emphasis in applications.

Institute of Applied and Computational Mathematics whose research is the numerical solution of equations pertinent to various branches of science and technology.

Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, concentrating on research in molecular biology of selected organisms, in marine biology and the development of biotechnological applications.

• Institute of Mediterranean Studies, which studies the Mediterranean people from a historical, sociological, cultural, political and economic perspective and their interrelation with Greece.

• Institute of Electronic Structure and Lasers, concerned with materials science research.

• Institute of Chemical Engineering and High Energy Chemical Processes, affiliated with the University of Patras.

• Institute of Chemical Processing Technology, affiliated with the University of Thessaloniki.

The governing board includes the president and the directors of the institutes (who are mainly professors at the University of Crete), and a representative of the Greek Secretariat of Research and Technology.

## Institute of Electronic Structure and Lasers

The Institute of Electronic Structure and Lasers (IESL) is concerned with materials science research, specifically with three main themes:

1. understanding the physical and electronic properties of materials for the purpose of developing applications in electronics,

2. the study of interactions between matter and laser beams, and

3. the design of new lasers and related electro-optic devices.

#### Organization, Programs, and Personnel

The IESL currently has two divisions, each subdivided into groups pursuing a mixture of fundamental and applied research coherent with the main themes of the institute (see Table I).

IESL is staffed by 23 faculty members and research scientists, 5 postdoctoral fellows, 15 visiting scientists, 8 graduate students, and 12 technical and administrative personnel.

#### Funding - Cooperation

During 1987, IESL's budget was about 190 million Gr. drachmas (about US \$1,357,000). About 90% of the institute's total funding is obtained from sources outside Greece via proposals submitted either through the Greek government or directly from IESL to various European Community programs such as the Regional Fund, Mediterranean Integrated Program, ES-PRIT, RACE, Brite, Stimulation etc., and the NATO program SFS. The institute's present income from specialized services and product activities amounts to about 40% of its total funding.

To achieve and maintain scientific excellence IESL from its inception sought to develop strong links with the international scientific community. As a result IESL has initiated numerous collaborations in the context of multilateral and bilateral agreements and also through direct contacts between laboratories and individual

## Table I. Research at the Institute of Electronic Structure & Lasers

#### Lasers and Applications Division

R&D in Lasers and Laser Systems

- high power UV lasers
- lasers for diagnostics
- tunable VUV sources based on FWSM
- Laser Applications
- materials processing
- semiconductor processing
- medical applications
- Study of Nonlinear Phenomena
- multiphoton excitation (MPE)
- theory of MPE

#### **Dynamics of Excited States**

- state-selective energy transfer and reactivity
- fragmentation dynamics
- laser-induced clustering
- Laser-Surface Interactions
- semiconductor annealing
- deposition of high  $T_{\rm e}$  superconducting films Research, Development and Structure of New

### Lasers

#### Materials and Devices Division

- GaAs Molecular Beam Epitaxy and III-V Microelectronics
- GaAs MBE epitaxial wafers for microwave devices and integrated circuits
- epitaxy of GaAs on Si
- laser/GaAs interactions
- GalnAs novel devices
- GaAs tunneling
- modeling of tunneling and heterojunctions
- Characterization of Devices
- electrical
- optical
- structural
- Refractory Silicides and Amorphous Metallizations
- study of WSi2, TiWSi2, VSi2, TaSi2 metal layers on GaAs (n/n + , Si)
- electrical behavior of metal on n/n+
- film interface evaluation
- Amorphous Semiconductor Materials, Devices
- sputtering
- ionized cluster beam
- Theoretical Group
- computational technique
- disorder of many body physics
- nonlinear dynamics
- applications of quantum field theory

researchers. During 1987, the institute maintained cooperative agreements with 5 Greek, 26 European and 9 U.S. universities or research centers, and 5 industrial firms.

#### **Facilities**

The IESL has access to FORTH's general state-of-the-art facilities such as the com-

puter center, the structural and surface analysis unit, the digital image processing unit, the electronics department and others. In addition, the institute possesses its own high quality specialized equipmentfor example, two MBE systems, thin film deposition units, several laser systems (excimer, pulsed and continuous), photolithography system, IR and QM spectrometers, molecular ion beam system, and several characterization techniques for its grown wafers, including high energy electron diffraction, polaron DLTS system, profilometry, Van der Pauw-Hall effect measurements, and capacitance-voltage profiling.

#### **Conferences and Publications**

Apart from establishing graduate and training programs in collaboration with the University of Crete, the IESL acts as a discussion platform for the exchange of scientific ideas in its fields of interest. To implement this task, the institute has organized several international meetings such the International Conference on as Multiphoton Processes III, and the 14th International Conference on GaAs and Related Compounds. It also regularly hosts advanced summer institutes and workshops, seminars and mini-courses. The results of its research are widely published in the form of reports or in accredited scientific journals. In 1987 IESL's publications numbered about 35.

#### Present and Future Outlook

IESL is in its fifth year, and the dynamic growth and achievements gained to date have resulted in the development of a new intellectual community in materials science in Greece.

IESL can claim major direct contributions to the development of high technology in Greece by harboring specialized production facilities and services and hence catalyzing the creation of new enterprises. For example, of two excimer lasers constructed in the IESL, one was sold to a Greek university. The institute's major success in this area, however, can be considered the molecular beam epitaxy laboratory, established for the research and development of new MBE materials and device structures. The laboratory can provide complete epitaxial film growth (GaAs, GaAlAs, InGaAs, GaAs on Si etc.) services for a variety of application customers.

Greece critically needs to develop and further improve the competitiveness of its technology in the international marketplace. The limited research resource base must find new and effective ways to bring out and/or support domestic industry toward this vital end. IESL, a successful example of having gone beyond tradition, is a promising link with the advanced materials research and development network.

#### Acknowledgments

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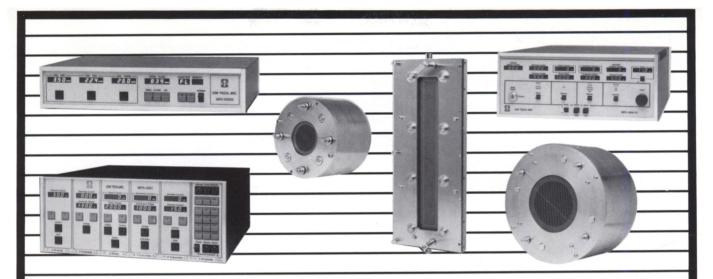
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