

Transparent materials

Transparent materials, such as glass/sapphire are fascinating materials with remarkable properties that have made it a favorite among researchers and engineers for decades. Its robustness, chemical resistance, transparency, and affordability have made it an ideal candidate for a multitude of applications, ranging from microfluidic devices and optical components to electronic devices.

The femtosecond laser micromachining technique has brought transparent materials processing to the next level. Complex structures can now be precisely fabricated by selectively removing material through drilling, cutting, milling, etching and scribing.

400x d300 Spacing: 40 um Thickness: 150 um Taper: 14.5 deg. Production time: 5 min

Borosilicate drilling. Courtesy of FTMC.



SLE of fused silica. Courtesy of Femtika.



UVFS milling. Courtesy of FTMC.



Laser-based Bessel beam scribing of soda-lime glass. Courtesy of FTMC.

Polymers

Polymers are revolutionizing various industries with their exceptional properties, including flexibility, durability, and ease of processing. These versatile materials find application in a wide range of fields, from aerospace and biomedicine to electronics.

Polymer processing with femtosecond lasers has opened up new avenues for precision fabrication of complex structures by selectively removing polymer with high precision and minimal thermal effects.

Femtosecond laser processing can also be used for photo-polymerization, a process where monomers or prepolymers are selectively polymerized to create complex 3D structures with sub-micron resolution, high accuracy, and repeatability.



Photo-polymerization. Courtesy of Femtika.



Photo-polymerization. Courtesy of WOP.



Insulation layer removal from PCB. Courtesy of FTMC.



Polymide cutting. Courtesy of FTMC.

Material Processing Examples

Metals

Metals, particularly stainless steel, has become an integral part of modern engineering and manufacturing thanks to its mechanical, chemical, and aesthetic properties. Its versatility has led to its use in diverse fields such as aerospace, automotive, architecture, and medical equipment.

Femtosecond laser technology has revolutionized metal micromachining, offering an exciting array of possibilities for creating visually stunning and intricately precise structures with minimal heat affected zones. Femtosecond lasers enable the production of complex shapes and features, while also providing the capability to perform black/white marking and coloring without the need for chemical additives.



Stainless steel (left) and titanium film (right) coloring with GHz burst feature. Courtesy of Akoneer.



Stainless steel cutting. Courtesy of FTMC.



"Shark skin" surface structuring. Courtesy of FTMC.



Highly-resistant black marking. Courtesy of FTMC.



Stainless steel cutting. Courtesy of FTMC.

Other materials



Teflon (PTFE) milling. Courtesy of FTMC.



Crystalline silicon cutting. Courtesy of FTMC.



Crystalline silicon cutting. Courtesy of FTMC.





Reliability Redefined

A reliable & versatile tool for micromachining

/ Glass, sapphire and ceramics micro processing

/ Microelectronics manufacturing

/ Glass intra volume structuring

/ Micro processing of different polymers and metals

/ LCD, LED, OLED drilling, cutting and repair

Zero maintenance

EKSPLA

2 years of total warranty

30 W Femtosecond Industrial Laser

FemtoLux 30

Designed from the get-go for maximum reliability, seamless integration and non-stop 24/7/365 zero maintenance operation with innovative "dry" cooling.

The FemtoLux 30 femtosecond laser has a tunable pulse duration from <350 fs to 1 ps and can operate in a broad AOM controlled range of pulse repetition rates from a single shot to 4 MHz.

The maximum pulse energy is more than 100 μJ operating with single pulses and can reach more than 450 μJ in burst mode, ensuring higher ablation rates and processing throughput for different materials.

The FemtoLux 30 beam parameters will meet the requirements of the most demanding materials and micro-machining applications.

Innovative laser control electronics ensure simple control of the FemtoLux 30 laser by external controllers that could run on different platforms, be it Windows, Linux or others using REST API commands.

This makes easy integration and reduces the time and human resources required to integrate this laser into any laser micromachining equipment.

Seamless User Experience

Easy integration - remote control using REST API via RS232 and LAN.

Reduced integration time – demo electronics is available for laser control programming in advance.

Easy and quick installation – no water, fully disconnectable laser head. Can be installed by the end-user.

Easy troubleshooting – integrated detectors and constant system status logging.

No periodic maintenance required.

At 1030 nm

At 515 nm 11 W At 343 nm

Features

Typical max output power 30 W at 1030 nm, 11 W at 515 nm, 6 W at 343 nm

Typical max output energies > 100 μJ at 1030 nm, > 55 μJ at 515 nm, > 30 μJ at 343 nm

High energy version available (**1 mJ** at 10 kHz)

MHz, GHz, MHz+GHz burst modes

> 450 µJ in a burst mode

< 350 fs – 1 ps

Single shot to 4 MHz (AOM controlled)

Pulse-on-demand (PoD), with jitter as low as 20 ns (peak-to-peak)

<0.5% RMS power long term stability over 100 hours

 $M^2 < 1.2$

Beam circularity > 0.85

Zero maintenance

Dry cooling (no water used)

2 years of total warranty



Learn more about FemtoLux 30 www.ekspla.com

*EKSPLA

"Dry" Cooling Direct Refrigerant Cooling System

The FemtoLux 30 laser employs an innovative cooling system and sets new reliability standards among industrial femtosecond lasers. No additional bulky and heavy water chiller is needed.

The chiller requires periodic maintenance – cooling system draining and rinsing and water and particle filter replacement. Moreover, water leakage can cause damage to the laser head and other equipment. Instead of using water for transferring heat from a laser head, the FemtoLux 30 laser uses an innovative Direct Refrigerant Cooling method.

The refrigerant agent circulates from a PSU-integrated compressor and condenser, to a cooling plate via armored flexible lines.

The entire cooling circuit is permanently hermetically

sealed and requires no maintenance.



See **FemtoLux 30** introduction video showing "dry cooling" advantages



Military-grade reliability

Permanently hermetically sealed system >90,000 hour MTBF

No maintenance

High cooling efficiency

>45% lower power consumption compared to water cooling equipment

Compact and light





Simple & Reliable Cooling Plate Attachment

The cooling plate is detachable from the laser head for more convenient laser installation. The laser cooling equipment is integrated with the laser power supply unit into a single 4U rack-mounted housing with a total weight of 15 kg.





Simple and reliable cooling plate attachment

Detachable cooling plate

Integrated cooling equipment with the laser power supply

GHz Burst Option

Patent-Pending Method for Ultra-High Rate Bursts

Short GHz burst

Fig 1. Measured 2.2 GHz intra-burst PRR burst of pulses containing a different number of pulses of equal amplitudes at 31.5 W average output power



Long GHz burst

Fig 2. Measured 2.2 GHz pre-shaped bursts of 1000 pulses at 233 kHz burst repetition rate for the desired rectangular-like burst shape



Fig 3. Measured 2.2 GHz non-pre-shaped bursts of 1100 pulses at 233 kHz burst repetition rate



MHz + GHz burst mode

Fig 4. Measured 4 bursts of 50 MHz BRR containing 4 pulses of 2.5 GHz intra-burst PRR



Fig 5. Measured 10 bursts of 50 MHz BRR containing 10 pulses of 2.5 GHz intra-burst PRR



Benefits

The Femtolux 30 laser can operate in the **single-pulse** mode, **MHz burst** mode, **GHz burst** mode, and **MHz + GHz burst** mode.

The burst formation technique based on the use of the AFL is a very versatile method as it allows to overcome many limitations encountered by other fiber- and/or solid-statebased techniques.

Any desired intra-burst PRR can be achieved independently from the initial PRR of the master oscillator

Identical pulse separation inside the GHz bursts is maintained

Short- and long-burst formation modes can be provided.

/ A short burst is up to about10 ns burst width (from 2 to tens of pulses in the GHz burst).

/ A long burst is from ~20 ns up to a few hundred ns in burst width (from tens to thousands of pulses in the GHz burst)

MHz+GHz burst mode

An adjustable amplitude envelope of the GHz bursts is provided

No pre/post pulses in GHz burst. Pure GHz bursts

Ultrashort pulse duration is maintained inside the bursts



A new versatile patent-pending method to form ultra-high repetition rate bursts of ultrashort laser pulses.

The developed method is based on the use of an all-in-fiber active fiber loop (AFL). A detailed description of the invention can be found on:

[1] Andrejus Michailovas, and Tadas Bartulevičius. 2021 Int. patent application published under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) WO2021059003A1.

[2] Tadas Bartulevičius, Mykolas Lipnickas, Virginija Petrauskienė, Karolis Madeikis, and Andrejus Michailovas, (2022), "30 W-average-power femtosecond NIR laser operating in a flexible GHz-burst-regime," Opt. Express 30, 36849-36862.

Specifications

Parameter	Value	
Burst repetition rate	200 – 650 kHz	
Intra-burst pulse repetition rate ¹⁾	2 GHz	
GHz burst mode	short long	
Number of pulses ²⁾	2 – 22	44 - 1100
Shape	square, rising, falling	falling, pre-shaped ³⁾
MHz + GHz burst mode		
MHz + GHz burst mode Burst repetition rate	100 – 650 kHz	
MHz + GHz burst mode Burst repetition rate Number of pulses in MHz burst	100 – 650 kHz 2 – 10	
MHz + GHz burst mode Burst repetition rate Number of pulses in MHz burst Number of pulses in GHz burst	100 – 650 kHz 2 – 10 2 – 22	

Principle of AFL Technology



Pulse-on-Demand (PoD)

Traditional laser triggering techniques struggle to maintain equally spaced pulses at high speeds (Fig.1, 2). Pulse-on-demand feature tackles this challenge and enables high-speed micromachining (Fig. 3).

Time based laser triggering

Fig 1. Complex shape scanned with time based laser triggering mode with a pulse repetition of 200 kHz and scanning speed of 6 m/s. The scanning started from the top right to the bottom right area. Overlapping pulses result in an overheated area.



Position based laser triggering

Fig 2. Complex shape scanned with position based laser triggering mode with a pitch of 30 μ m and scanning speed of 6 m/s. The scanning started from the top right to the bottom right area. Jitter of tens of μ s results in random pulse spacing.



Pulse-on-demand (PoD)

Fig 3. Complex shape scanned with pulse-on-demand (PoD) and position based laser triggering mode with a pitch of 30 μm and scanning speed of 6 m/s. The scanning started from the top right to the bottom right area. PoD feature preserves equidistant pulse spacing at high speeds.



Benefits

Jitter lower than 20 ns ensures consistent and equidistant pulse spacing for high-speed micromachining

Adjustable repetition rate for processing complex geometries

Faster processing speeds, increased productivity

PoD feature enables the laser to fire a pulse only when required, rather than at a constant rate, enabling precise control over the laser's output and resulting in higher efficiency, accuracy and quality.

This capability is especially valuable in various micromachining applications where a high processing speed, constant energy, and accuracy are essential. To follow complex curvature at high speed and to maintain equidistant spacing it is necessary to ensure that the repetition rate of the pulses is adjusted. To achieve these requirements, it is necessary to ensure that the repetition rate of the pulses is adjusted to follow complex curvature at high speed and to maintain equidistant spacing. One may try to use position based laser triggering but, due to laser system limitations, the jitter will be from several µs to tens of µs, which will result in random spacing of the pulses. On the other hand, the usage of time based laser triggering results in overheat areas, due to excessive overlap of pulses. The FemtoLux 30 laser has the pulse-on-demand feature with jitter as low as 20 ns (peak-to-peak), and it can therefore tackle all the challenges and maximize process efficiency, precision and quality at high speed.

Specifications ¹⁾

Model			FemtoLux 30	
Main specifications				
	fundamental		1030 nm	
Central wavelength	with second harmonic	option	515 nm	
	with third harmonic op	otion	343 nm	
Pulse repetition rate (PRR) ²⁾			200 kHz – 4 MHz	
Pulse repetition frequency (PR	F) after frequency divider		PRF = PRR / N, N=1, 2, 3, , 65000; single shot	
Average output power	at 1030 nm		> 27 W (typical 30 W)	
	at 515 nm		> 11 W ³	
	at 343 nm		> 6 W ³⁾	
at 1030 nmPulse energyat 515 nm	at 1030 nm		> 100 µJ or 1 mJ ⁴⁾	
	at 515 nm		> 55 µJ ³⁾	
	at 343 nm		> 30 µJ ³⁾	
Number of pulses in MHz burst ⁵⁾		2 – 10		
Total energy in burst mode		> 450 µJ ⁶⁾		
Power long term stability (Std. dev.) 7)		< 0.5 %		
Pulse energy stability (Std. dev	′.) ⁸⁾		< 1 %	
Pulse duration (FWHM)		tunable, < 350 fs $^{9)}$ – 1 ps $^{10)}$		
Beam quality		$M^2 < 1.2$ (typical < 1.1)		
Beam circularity, far field		> 0.85		
Beam divergence (full angle)		< 1 mrad		
Beam pointing thermal stabilit	у		< 20 µrad/°C	
Beam diameter (1/e ²) at 20 cm distance from laser aperture at 1030 nm		2.5 ± 0.4 mm		
Triggering mode		internal / external		
Pulse output control			frequency divider, pulse picker, burst mode, packet triggering, power attenuation, pulse-on-demand ¹¹⁾	
Control interfaces			RS232 / LAN	
Length of the umbilical cord			3 m, detachable. Custom length option available	
Laser head cooling type		dry (direct refrigerant cooling through detachable cooling plate)		
Physical characteristics				
Laser head (W \times L \times H)		429 × 569 × 130 mm		
Power supply unit (W \times L \times H)			449 × 376 × 177 mm	
Operating requirements				
Mains requirements			100 – 240 V AC, single phase, 50/60 Hz	
Maximal power rating			800 W	
Operating ambient temperatu	re		18 – 27 °C	
Relative humidity			10-80 % (non-condensing)	
Air contamination level			ISO 9 (room air) or better	
 Due to continuous improvement, all : to change without notice. Parameter: specifications. They are indications of will vary with each unit we manufact, specified for a shortest pulse duration all specifications are measured at 103 without options. When frequency divider is set to tran controllable by integrated AOM. 	specifications are subject s marked typical are not typical performance and ure. All parameters are n. Unless stated otherwise, 0 nm and for basic system smit every pulse. Fully	 > 450 µJ in MHz b at 100 kHz PRR. > Over 100 h after w environmental cor Under constant er At PRR > 500 kHz, duration is < 400 i Custom pulse dur; Co fr available 	urst mode or MHz+GHz burst mode 90 µJ energy in GHz burst mode. arm-up under constant ditions. vironmental conditions. At PRR < 500 kHz shortest pulse s. tion by request. For example – fixed	
³⁾ At 200 kHz.	potition rate available	¹¹⁾ Jitter < 20 ns. Trigo	jer-to-pulse delay < 1 µs.	

⁵⁾ Oscillator frequency ~50 MHz, ~20 ns separation between pulses.



Performance







Fig 3. Typical dependence of output power and pulse energy of FemtoLux 30 laser at 343 nm on pulse repetition rate



Fig 5. Typical M² measurement of FemtoLux 30 laser at 1030 nm



Fig 2. Typical dependence of output power and pulse energy of FemtoLux 30 laser at 515 nm on pulse repetition rate



Fig 4. Typical FemtoLux 30 laser (at 1030 nm) output pulse autocorrelation function



Fig 6. Typical pulse-to-pulse energy stability of FemtoLux 30 laser at 200 kHz over 30 000 pulses. RMS was calculated by using a set of mean values of 10 consecutive laser shots



Fig 7. Long-term average power stability of the FemtoLux 30 laser at 1030 nm under constant environmental conditions over an extended duration of 16,000 hours



Fig 9. Typical beam direction stability of FemtoLux 30 under harsh environmental conditions



Fig 8. Typical long term average power stability of FemtoLux 30 laser at 1030 nm under constant environmental conditions



Fig 10. Average output power dependance of FemtoLux 30 laser on ambient temperature at 1030 nm



FemtoLux 30 with harmonics module and power supply

12/ ***ekspla**

Drawings



Fig 11. FemtoLux 30 laser head outline drawing





Fig 12. FemtoLux 30 with harmonics module. Laser head outline drawing



Fig 13. Power supply outline drawing