LASER CHEMISTRY IN RUSSIA

Investigations in the wide field now called laser chemistry were started in the Soviet Union, primarily in Russia, in the middle of the 60's, after the advent of lasers.

These investigations started at the Academy of Sciences (P. N. Lebedev Physical Institute, General Physics Institute, Institute of Spectroscopy) and at the Moscow State University were further developed in other research centres as well. Since then national conferences on laser chemistry have been held regularly.

At present there is a program of research in laser chemistry in Russia supported by the Ministry of Science, Highest School and Technical Policy. The works in laser chemistry are partly financed and coordinated within the frame of this program.

When choosing articles for this special issue we wanted to present papers on laser chemistry in different media – gas, solids, surface – with different lasers used, from IR to UV. We understand this issue does not quite cover the whole range of works on laser chemistry in Russia. Nevertheless, we hope that the papers presented give at least some idea about the modern “state of art” in this field of science in Russia.

E. A. Ryabov
Guest Editor