

## Preface

The centuries-old history of science showed that the euphoria from amazing (firstly) scientific achievements is usually not long, and evaluation of the technological progress is almost always ambiguous.

The past 20th century with its unexampled technological achievements in nuclear power and space development, in laser and information technologies, as well as many other fields of natural science and the humanities did not become an exclusion. But already at the end of the 20th century (once again for the long history!) the discussions on the creative and destructive parts in the technological progress, the role of science in stable development of civilization in general and social and political status of scientists and research teams, in particular, became more brisk. In fact, now we observe a natural process of practical adoption of already available scientific achievements, and the need in new scientific results receded into the background. At this stage of social development, the prestige of science falls down, influx of young initiative brains decreases, and many promising scientific fields lack researchers. Such times...

In such periods it becomes especially difficult to form new research fields and research teams, but the final stage of the formation of the Institute of Optical Monitoring SB RAS, in which the decisive role belonged to the Presidium of SB RAS (Chairman Academician N.L. Dobretsov), fell just on such time. Now it is early to tell about prominent scientific progress of the Institute, but there are certain achievements, and the information about them along with the review of technological results obtained earlier are given in this issue.

"To obtain scientific results is only one half of the work. Another half is to make them well-known." In 1969 this phrase of Academician M.A. Lavrentiev concluded his talk with me, Ph.D. and deputy head of the laboratory at the Siberian Physical Technical Institute at that time. Academician M.A. Lavrentiev visited Tomsk to discuss organization of the Institute of Atmospheric Optics, the first academic institute in Tomsk, with V.E. Zuev, professor and head of the laboratory at the Siberian Physical Technical Institute. I always remembered this phrase of the great scientist and scientific manager and recalled it to the authors of papers presented in this issue. The aim of the published reviews is not only to describe scientific results, but also to attract attention of colleagues to them for possible cooperation in the future. And only you, our readers, can judge how close we are to achieving this goal.

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