

## Preface

In this issue we accomplish publication of papers presented at the V International Conference on Atomic and Molecular Pulsed Lasers (AMPL-2001). This conference was held in Tomsk in September 9–14 of 2001. The first part of papers selected by the Organizing Committee was published in issue No. 11 of *Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics* in 2001.

This issue begins with the paper by Professor P.A. Bokhan (in co-authorship with A.P. Bokhan), which reviews physical processes proceeding in open discharge and their roles in discharge evolution. Two papers on this subject (authors G.V. Kolbychev and A.R. Sorokin) were included in the previous issue. Some original reports on the physics and technology of metal vapor lasers and application of laser systems continue this issue. Then we acquaint readers with the reports presented at Section C: Dye Lasers and Photoprocesses in Complex Organic Molecules and Section F: Incoherent Sources of UV and VUV Radiation, which did not receive sufficient consideration in the previous issue. The major contributors in Sections C and F were scientists from the Tomsk State University, Siberian Physical Technical Institute, and the Institute of High-Current Electronics SB RAS, whose best papers are published here.

Unfortunately, we could not publish all materials presented at the AMPL-2001 because of the limited paper, and we apologize to the authors, whose papers were not accepted for publication.

In conclusion, I would like to say the following. Five our conferences were held in hard time for Russian science (in 1992–2001). Nevertheless, they were successful and had a positive dynamics from year to year as regards the quality of the presented material, the number of participants, and the role of young scientists.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I am pleased to express our gratitude to all participants and organizers of the conferences, as well as those, who sponsored and countenanced them. And I would like to express our special gratitude to the Editorial Board of *Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics*, which can be considered as an official partner of our conferences.

We will be glad to see you at the next VI AMPL Conference, which will be held in Tomsk in September 2003. The information about this conference will be published on the Internet site of the Institute of Atmospheric Optics SB RAS: <http://www.iao.ru>).

***Professor G.S. Evtushenko***