Robert L. McCrory, LLE director

After a nationwide search, Robert L. McCrory, head of LLE’s Theoretical Division, was named director of the Laboratory for Laser Energetics on 1 January 1983. John Soures was appointed deputy director.

Robert Hutchison celebrates the 10,000th target shot

Four years into its productive life, OMEGA reached a milestone with the firing of its 10,000th shot. The long productive lives of the LLE laser systems are ample testimony to the excellence of the LLE engineering staff augmented with strength in depth of the optics industry in the Rochester area.

Improvements in implosion symmetry from the use of spider silk

The development of spider-silk target mounting by Steve Noyes of LLE was published for the first time in an article in the Journal of Vacuum Science and Technology.


A paper entitled “Experimental Facility for Nanosecond Time-Resolved Low Angle X-Ray Diffraction Experiments Using a Laser-Produced Plasma Source” by J. M. Forsyth and R. D. Frankel appeared in Review of Scientific Instruments. This project was one of the first to be carried out under the NLUF program.


The first six beams of OMEGA were converted and started operating in the ultraviolet. LLE also operated the OMEGA and Glass Development Laser (GDL) for LLE experiments and those carried out by National Laser Users Facility (NLUF) users.

First Six Beams Converted

Spider-Silk Target Mount

Dipalmitoyl lecithin x-ray diffraction

The OMEGA Laser is shown photographed in its own harmonic light. This picture was taken during system tests after the first six of the 24 infrared (1054-nm) beams were converted to 351-nm operation.

First Six Beams Converted

Zero Order

First Order (55 Å)

National Laser Users Facility Program Publication

Labratory for Laser Energetics

a unique national resource