

# Section 1

## OMEGA Decommissioning

On 18 December 1992 the final shot was fired on the OMEGA laser system. OMEGA was then decommissioned during the first quarter of 1993 to make room for the OMEGA Upgrade.<sup>1</sup> The decommissioning task was completed on 10 February 1993, several weeks ahead of schedule.

The operational OMEGA system was surrounded by 15 years' worth of storage. Every area planned for use by the OMEGA Upgrade was occupied with experimental hardware, documentation storage, and spare parts. The first task was to establish a schedule for decommissioning that would be integrated with the facility modification plan. This task was estimated to take approximately 14 weeks. The second task was the selection of the team to execute the decommissioning plan. This team brought together the expertise of the operations group with the OMEGA Upgrade engineering team for each critical area to be decommissioned. The plan was generated and reviewed with the directors, team roles and responsibilities were outlined, tools and storage material were procured, storage areas were defined, and a rigging contractor was selected.

The concern for safety was always utmost in the planning and each task was evaluated to insure that the correct procedure was used and appropriate equipment handling was available.

The readiness planning paid off as the execution went well and safely, the teams were swift, and area by area was cleared and cleaned.

### **OMEGA Decommissioning**

The following is a summary of the structures, components, and miscellaneous material removed from the facility to make room for the OMEGA Upgrade:

- 250 skids (4 ft × 4 ft wooden pallets) each containing approximately 64 cu ft. of material weighing 500 pounds;
- Six dumpsters (30 cu yd.) for metal scrap;
- Ten dumpsters (30 cu yd.) for material scrap;
- 16,000 sq. ft. used for structures and components storage at the Center for Optoelectronics and Imaging and Boulter Carting Co.;
- 140,000 lb of structures for metal salvage.

Excluding the 140,000 lb of structures that were scrapped, the total volume of material stored or scrapped via dumpsters is equal to approximately 109,000 cu ft.

The material in storage was inventoried into the vault via the property-control process. Material and components intended for reuse in the OMEGA Upgrade design were assigned six-digit identification numbers that will be used to retrieve the hardware when required for assembly into the Upgrade program.

The early closure of the decommissioning allowed the facility contractor to start the internal building modifications at an early date, which in turn will enhance the overall OMEGA Upgrade schedule. The excellent effort put forth by the decommissioning team coupled with the cooperative spirit of all the LLE staff was key to the success of this effort.

The preparation and planning for the integration of the OMEGA Upgrade system is now well underway. Building modifications are proceeding and supporting the start date for structures installation on 23 August 1993.

### **REFERENCES**

1. LLE Review **39**, 114 (1989).