

MAR10-2009-020168

Abstract for an Invited Paper  
for the MAR10 Meeting of  
the American Physical Society

**Lasers at 50: Meeting the Grand Challenges for the 21st Century**

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In the 50 years since the demonstration of the laser, coherent light has changed the way we work, communicate and play. The generation and control of light is critical for meeting important challenges of the 21st century from fundamental science to the generation of energy.