

BELASNET

Belgian Laser Applications Network

Activities 2007-2008

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BELGIAN LASER APPLICATIONS NETWORK
Secretariat: Vito, Laser Centre Flanders
Boeretang 200, 2400 Mol

 **BE** LASNET
Belgian Laser Applications Network

Overview

- Technological consultancy service on laser manufacturing
- Collective research projects in Flanders
- Support of Belasnet by Belgian federal government (FOD)
- Walloon activities: Cluster of photonics
- Events organised in period 2007-2008



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Past activities in Belgium 2007-2008

Technological consultancy service on laser manufacturing

- Initiative of Sirris, Clusta and VITO. VITO acting as the laser expert in Flanders
- Service granted by Flemish government (1 fulltime person/year) through regional funding agency (IWT)
- >100 company visits/year
- Prolongation of the activities for 4 years (2008-2011)
- General advice, promotion and demonstration of laser technology in industry with focus on SME's.
- Support for research projects from IWT: GTA, innovation studies, innovation projects with up to 50% grants for the company/SME.



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Collective research projects in Flanders:

Principle: a Flemish cooperation representing companies in the same sector

- Projects with almost direct industrial application of the results
- Project proposal (typically 2 year projects, 24 mm)
- Steering group = mainly industrial end-users
- IWT to select and grant proposals (80% of accepted costs)

2007: 2 proposals

Laser hybrid welding of high strength steel grades (continuation)

Laser cutting of modern plastics

- Unfortunately none of the proposals was selected



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Support of Belasnet by Belgian federal government (FOD)

- VITO in the lead of the Belgian part of Eulasnet

Main tasks are:

- Improving the visibility of Belgian laser-applied production and manufacturing activities.
 - Promotion of Belgian laser technologies to the public authorities.
 - Distributing public information to the members. Education and demonstration through workshops...
 - Promotion of mutual networking
 - Active role of members at setting up research projects.
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- Network with over 300 members (80% Flanders, 10% Wallonia)
 - Website + Flash



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Walloon activities: Cluster of photonics

Belasnet: only 10% Walloon members,

Networking project collecting some leading Walloon companies in the field of Photonics

→ Close collaboration with Belasnet/Eulasnet in the future



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Events organised in period 2007-2008

1. Laser treatment of plastics

Co-organisation with plastics federation (50)

Still lack of knowledge, but very appealing for some companies

2. TAD-event on laser welding of metals

Very high response (55)

3. Welding week 2007: symposium on hybrid laser welding

Showing state of the art in hybrid welding with laser

Not yet an industrial implementation in Belgium



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4. Course on lasertechnology

- 20 participants
- Joint initiative of VITO, 1 jobshopper, 1 university and 1 school of higher education

5. LAC-event Laser Application Centre (connected to UTwente, the Netherlands)

- Big support for consultancy, supported by the Dutch Metal Federation
- Good relationship with VITO
- >100 participants

6. Benelux Laserevent 2008 (May 2008): over 300 visitors from Belgium and the Netherlands

Theme = Design for Laser

- 12 lectures
- 25 exhibitors
- >300 visitors (external)



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