



## SEEING A NEW LIGHT

# New laser boasts power, reliability

A high-powered, low-energy miniature laser developed by a Northwestern University researcher will be commercialized by Semiconductor Laser International Corp., the firm said Monday.

Geoffrey T. Burnham, chief executive of the Endicott, N.Y.-based firm, said that he hopes to develop within six months diode lasers that generate five times the power of current lasers with 10 times the reliability at a lower cost.

"This is the technology the laser community has been waiting for," said Burnham.

The key to the new laser's effectiveness is that unlike today's super-small lasers, it doesn't contain aluminum,

which reduces the lifetime and power of semiconducting lasers. Manijeh Razeghi, head of the center for quantum devices at Northwestern's Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering, and colleagues announced three years ago they had devised a process for making aluminum-free lasers.

Burnham's company said it has been granted an exclusive license to commercialize the process and that Razeghi will serve as an adviser to the company. Tiny lasers are widespread in modern electronics, from compact disc players to grocery store check-out scanners.

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