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Contacts: Mark Mondry
Coherent, Inc.
(408) 764-4170
mark.mondry@coherent.com

David Kuntz
Technical Marketing Services
(310) 377-5393
davidkuntz@cox.net

New UV Laser for High Throughput Sapphire Scribing

Santa Clara, Calif., June 15, 2009— A new frequency tripled, diode-pumped, solid-state laser from Coherent, Inc. (Santa Clara, CA) (Nasdaq: COHR) offers economical performance for cost-sensitive micromachining tasks such as scribing sapphire substrates used in the fabrication of GaN LEDs. The AVIA™ 355-5 is a Q-switched Nd:YVO₄ laser that delivers 5W of 355 nm output at 50 kHz, and is suitable for operation at repetition rates of up to 150 kHz. Its combination of high repetition rate and short pulse length (<20 nsec at 5W) enables high throughput processing with minimal heat affected zone (HAZ).

The AVIA 355-5 is a cost effective, compact, OEM product that still offers many of the same features found on more powerful AVIA models. Signature AVIA features of ThermEQ™, PulseEQ™, and PulseTrack™ enable precise control of the delivered pulse energy allowing the OEM to define and optimize their laser process. The laser also has an automated harmonic crystal shifter to maintain constant output power for >20,000 hours and help reduce the cost of ownership. In addition, the laser's unique Posilock™ beam position sensor and feedback loop results in very high beam position stability over the life of the laser.

The AVIA 355-5 has been designed for easy integration with a laser head measuring only 491 mm x 216 mm x 141 mm. The laser also delivers enhanced reliability and ease of maintenance through the use of a highly efficient single pump diode module that is field replaceable.

Founded in 1966, Coherent, Inc. is a Russell 2000 Index company and a world leader in providing laser-based solutions to the commercial and scientific research markets. Please direct any questions to Mark Mondry, product manager, at (408) 764-4170. For more information about Coherent, including product and financial updates, visit our website at <http://www.Coherent.com>.