

Innovative Research With the Latest Laser System

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) acquires LPKF ProtoLaser R4

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The LPKF ProtoLaser R4 is a highly specialized precision picosecond laser system for research. It further extends the material micro-processing capabilities of the existing LPKF laser system portfolio. Just six months after the product was launched, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) has now purchased – and already tested – the first one in Germany.

The Institute of Radio Frequency Engineering and Electronics (IHE) at KIT can investigate innovative materials with the highest precision thanks to the latest laser technology. This research is accelerated through use of the system in conjunction with in-house production. Institute staff and students are thus well equipped for the future with the LPKF ProtoLaser R4.

Thanks to very short laser pulses in the picosecond range, the LPKF ProtoLaser R4 can structure and cut thermally sensitive and very thin materials with outstanding results. Very hard materials such as fired ceramics can likewise be cut. The system also achieves the highest level of quality demanded in research on standard materials used in electronics fabrication, for example FR4. “Users of the new machine are pleased with the easy handling, which is made possible by the perfected, user-friendly LPKF CircuitPro software. This also applies to the compact design, which can easily be integrated into the lab,” reports Jan-Hendrik Guttman, who familiarizes users at KIT with the system.

From numerous sales projects, Stefan Kiel of the LPKF laser sales team also knows how hard it often is to have larger investments approved on short notice at public institutions: “Budgets are planned for the long term and the bureaucratic hurdles for larger investments are often high. The very fast procurement confirms the urgent need for high-precision laser systems at research institutes.” LPKF presented the ProtoLaser R4 for the first time in January 2020 at the NEPCON trade show in Japan. After a university in California, KIT is now the first institute in Europe to drive in-

novative pioneering projects with the LPKF ProtoLaser R4. “The institute employees have ambitious goals and innovative ideas that they would like to realize with our new laser system for research,” Jan-Hendrik Guttmann discovered during the orientation.

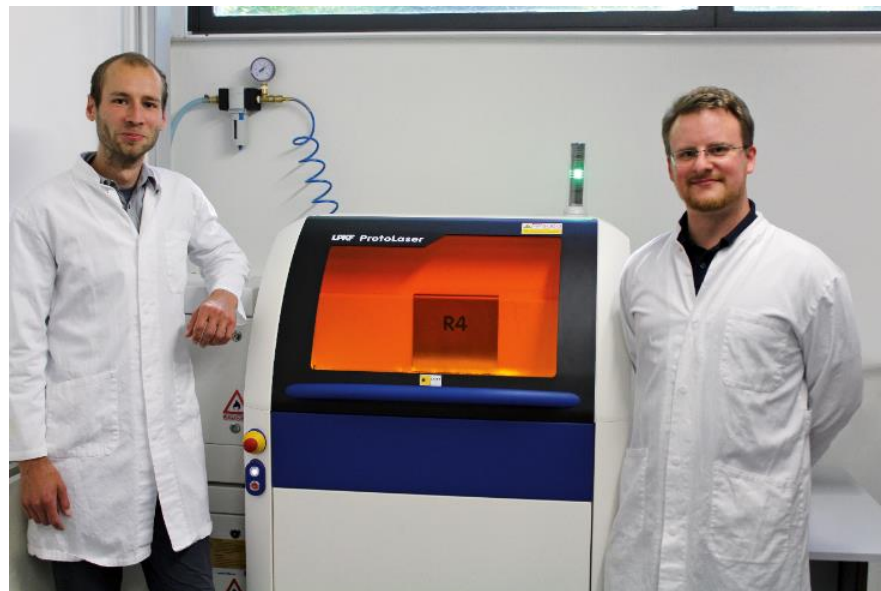


Image: M. Sc. Marius Kretschmann (left) from the Institute of Radio Frequency Engineering and Electronics (IHE) at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and Jan-Hendrik Guttmann, LPKF, in front of the LPKF ProtoLaser R4 laser system

About LPKF

LPKF Laser & Electronics AG is a leading provider of laser-based solutions for the technology industry. Laser systems from LPKF are key elements in the manufacturing of printed circuit boards, microchips, automotive parts, solar modules, and many other components. Founded in 1976, the company is headquartered in Garbsen, near Hannover, Germany, and has subsidiaries and representative offices throughout the world. Around 20 percent of the workforce is engaged in research and development.