

INTERBAND & QUANTUM CASCADE LASERS

Technologies, Market Trends and Applications

WILL CASCADE LASERS FINALLY CAUSE A MARKET DISRUPTION?

REPORT OUTLINE

- **249 slides (PDF)**
- **€ 4 990 - multi users license**

KEY FEATURES OF THE REPORT

- Revenues of the ICLs and QCLs markets at the level of sources and systems
- Market forecasts up to 2026
- Comprehensive overview of ICL and QCL products and their applications at the level of sources and equipment (excluding THz range)
- Comparison of ICL and QCL-based equipment with the other competitive systems
- Business models analysis
- Identification of challenges and bottlenecks for the broader adoption of ICLs and QCLs in large volume applications
- Review of the recent application trends (with the focus on gas spectroscopy)
- Review of potentially attractive applications for ICLs and QCLs

CONTACT AND ORDERS

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Interband and Quantum Cascade Lasers (ICLs and QCLs) offer coherent and high power radiation in the mid-infrared range, which is crucial for **infrared countermeasures**, **high-resolution gas spectroscopy** and **chemical sensing**.

Due to many advantages, Cascade Lasers were expected to mature quickly and to settle in **large volume applications**. Especially the semiconductor nature of ICLs and QCLs gave hope to make this technology largely scalable and cheap, as it happened with **LEDs** and **VCSELs** in the past.

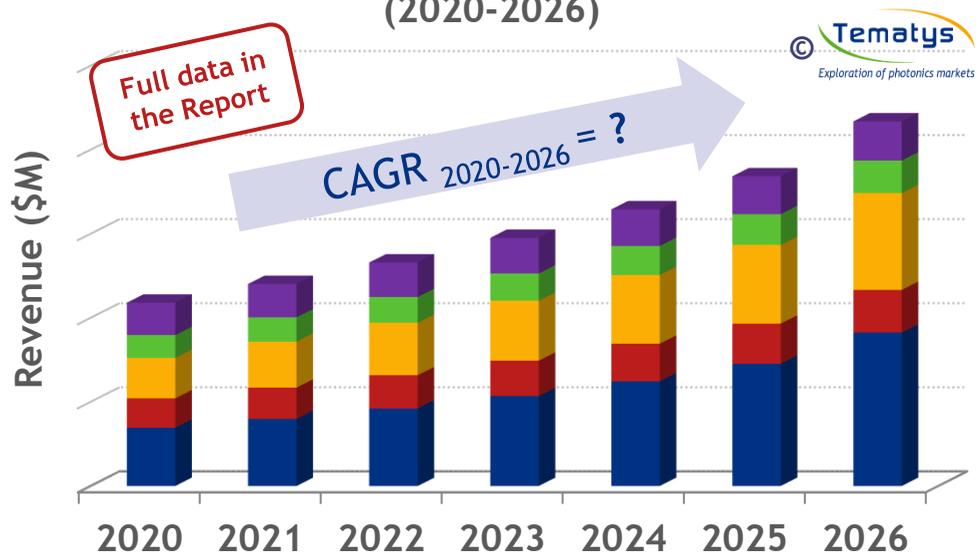
Dynamic growth have not fully materialized in the last years. The price of lasers still remains high (around few thousand dollars per piece), and the

potentially “killer” applications have not come yet. Cascade Lasers can be mainly found in niche applications.

The reason for that lies both in the **technical bottlenecks**, but also in the **market** which has not been ready to implement CL technology. The customers were very conservative and there were many other competitive techniques to choose from. **Now the perspectives for adoption are brighter.**

All bottlenecks preventing the wider use of Cascade Laser technologies are deeply discussed in this Report. The study provides market forecasts from 2020 to 2026 and also describes all main players to answer the question if the market disruption can finally occur.

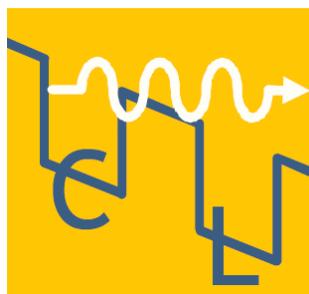
Market of Cascade Lasers Civil Systems (2020-2026)



- Industry
- Security & Safety
- Environment
- Health Care
- Transports

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Current employment of Cascade Lasers



Industry

- Process Control
- Exploration/Extraction
- Surveillance



Security & Safety

- Explosives & Harmful Materials
- Bio/ Chemical Agents



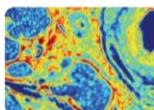
Defense

- IRCMs
- Pointers & Beacons



Environment

- CEM
- Atmosphere
- GHG
- Indoor air
- Water



Healthcare

- Blood
- Breath
- Proteins
- Life sciences



Transports

- Engine design
- Shipping
- VEM
- Fuels

INFORMATION SOURCES

- Tematys' in-house knowledge of Cascade Lasers technology and players.
- Financial and business information on almost 100 players of the Cascade Lasers market.
- Interviews with around 25 key manufacturers of ICLs and QCLs sources and equipment.
- Bibliographic research.
- Attendance on international conferences in the field of Cascade Lasers. Examples:
 - SPIE Photonics West 2021, March 6th - March 11th, 2021, San Francisco, USA (online)
 - EIC Greenhouse Gas Programme - Launching Event, April 21st 2021 (online)
 - Photonics Online Meetings #3, May 11th 2021 (online)

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THE NEED FOR “KILLER APPLICATION”

Most of the ICL and QCL manufacturers interviewed for the purpose of this Report claim that the main bottleneck limiting a large Cascade Lasers market opening is lack of “killer application”. In their shared opinion the technological constraints are not as meaningful as the lack of big player that could incorporate Cascade Lasers in high volume sensors.

So far, ICLs and QCLs have been used in the following cases:

- When time of the measurement is crucial - then remote measurement of gas/ liquids (or plasma) in the process line is applied, aiming at monitoring few species at once (combustion processes, power plant emission...).
- When there is no other way to measure gases or substances using competitive equipment (lack of absorption lines in NIR/SWIR for NO_x or too weak for SO_x, toxic gases in pharmaceuticals production...)
- In defense (infrared countermeasures, beacons...).

However, it has been reported that the ICLs and QCLs stand out from other photonic sources by their unique competitive advantages:

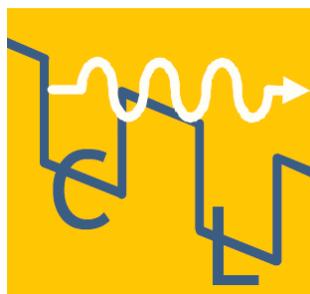
- Broadband lasing and good tunability

allow to investigate different species using only one technology.

- Narrow linewidth provide high resolution.
- Fast switching as well as short pulse duration enable remote and on-line monitoring.
- Label-free measurement offers in-situ, maintenance-free and 24/7 operation.
- High optical power results in significant signal-to-noise ratio.

This report not only details why these features have not translated into large market success but also analyzes all promising applications that could finally make Cascade Laser technology widely used in the next years.

Many aspects have been studied to find these sectors: business and financial information of ICL- and QCL-related companies, overview of recent mergers and acquisitions on the laser and sensing market, examination of currently funded projects by the EU and US government in the field of Cascade Lasers and lasers, and revision of recently acknowledged patents. This allowed to draw a clear conclusions for the future of Cascade Lasers market.



COST AND SIZE REDUCTION

Cascade Lasers has been very well adopted in Industrial and Environment applications where they can offer fast in-line and on-line monitoring of main process control and pollution gases: CO, CO₂, CH₄, H₂O, SO_x, NO_x etc. They are also vital in Defense use serving for modern countermeasure systems. However, the adoption in other analyzers is not as wide.

The report shows that the main issue behind that was related to cost and size. Footprint and weight of CL instruments has not been really reduced in the past years. In 2020 the average volume was still about 75 000 cm³ and the weight around 30-40 kg. That is why miniaturization of CL instruments is likely to be an inherent part of the broader adoption of CL systems.

THREAD POSED BY GROWING COMPETITION

Until Cascade Lasers were developed, the mainstream mid-IR solution for spectroscopic applications was either FT-IR, which utilizes an interferometer plus white light derived from ceramics/tungsten, or dispersive infrared spectroscopy, in which a diffraction grating is used. Recently, an IR-based photoacoustic detection is getting more and more was popularity.

are: NIR TDLAS, NIR CRDS, NDIR, Raman, ChemFET, MOS, chromatography, mass spectroscopy, PID/FID, Paramagnetic Detectors (PMD), Chemiluminescence, Pellistor, and Electrochemical sensing. There are also methods using 2D imaging instead of single point detection, the most common being hyperspectral imaging.

However, there are also other non-photonics analyzers that grow and pose new thread for CL-based solutions. These

This Report compares ICL and QCL technologies with main competition in order to draw a proper market landscape for all recipients of the study.

AUTHORS

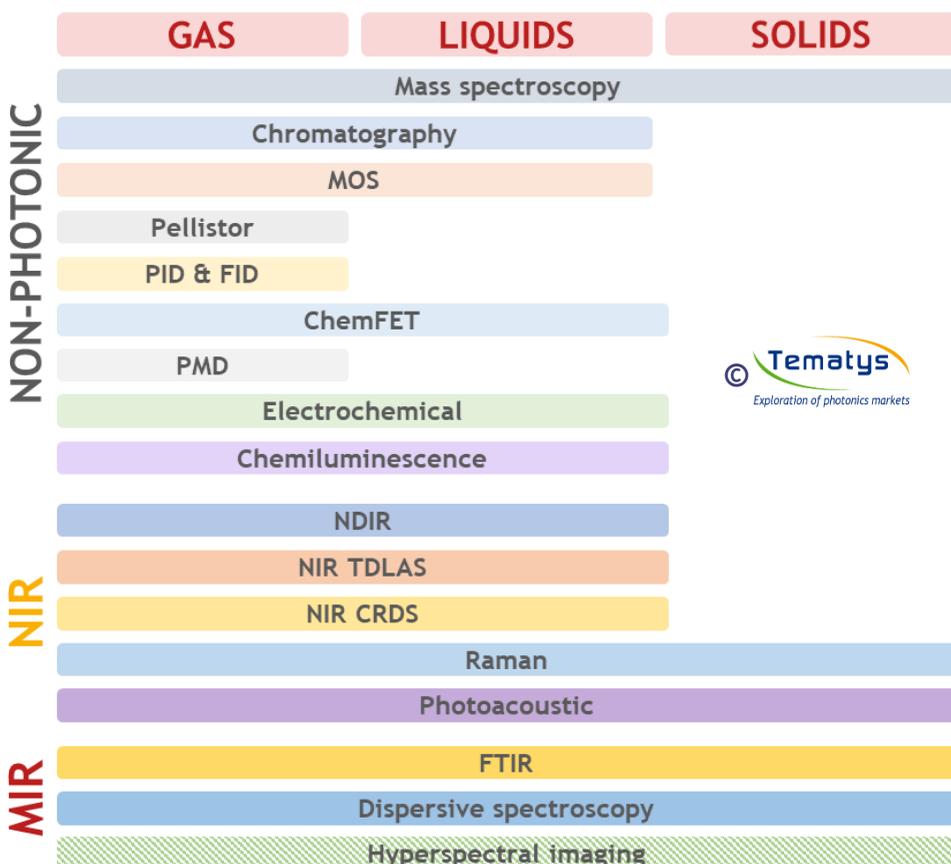


Jacek Kulakowski is Analyst at Tematys. He holds a Master Degree in Physics. He is experienced application and sales engineer for high-end semiconductor detectors. In TEMATYS he is in charge of the production and promotion of market reports.

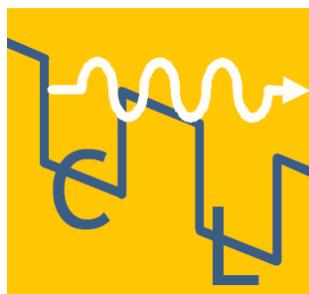


Benoît d'Humières is an expert in Optics, Electronics and Instrumentation for industrial and research applications. He has run many marketing and technological studies for major companies (THALES, ESSILOR, EDF...), SMEs and research institutes. He is Partner and Strategy Consultant in TEMATYS.

Main competition for CL-based sensing



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ICL AND QCL SOURCES MANUFACTURERS MENTIONED IN THE REPORT:

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PROVIDERS OF ICL AND QCL-BASED EQUIPMENT MENTIONED IN THE REPORT:

RedShiftBio, Gasera, Bruker, Thermo Fisher, Emerson, Airoptic, Neoplas control, Northrop Grumman, LSE Monitors, Aerodyne Research, Physical Sciences Inc, Picarro, Quantared Technologies, Toshiba, Horiba, IRsweep, Eralytics, AP2E, AVL Emission Test Systems GmbH, LaserMaxDefence, Neo Monitors, Kittiwake Procal, Wavelengths Electronics, Diehl Defence, Los Gatos, Cemtek KVB-Enertec, Boreal Laser, Emsys Maritime Ltd, DiaMonTech AG, KNESTEL GmbH, Healthy Photon, MIRO Analytical Technologies AG, Leonardo DRS and many more...

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