



General Atomics Enters the Industrial Laser Market - Introduces Everest™

San Diego, CA – Sept 10, 2004 - General Atomics today announced it's entry into the industrial laser market by introducing a new class of high-peak power, solid state, Q-switched lasers. The Everest™ , product line was created to offer customers high-speed precision machining with the quality of femtosecond processing, without the complexity and cost of femtosecond lasers.

The Everest family of lasers will be available for bookings starting October 15, 2004, with deliveries planned for the beginning of 2005.

Everest lasers also offer the SuperPulse™ option. SuperPulse™ refers to a patented dual-pulse technology which enables the user to achieve enhanced material ablation, a minimal heat affected zone and negligible recast in the drilling/cutting of metals and alloys. Everest lasers incorporating SuperPulse have been shown to process semiconductors, plastics, dielectrics and a variety of metals and alloys at ablation rates many orders of magnitude greater than is achievable with femtosecond lasers but at comparable quality. Everest lasers have already been used by customers for a variety of precision machining applications include cutting, drilling, surface structuring/treatment and marking.

For more information, please visit photonics.ga.com/everest or contact Michael Armas, Commercial Lasers Manager, at (858) 457-8788.

About General Atomics

General Atomics, founded in 1955 with corporate headquarters in San Diego, CA, specializes in diversified research, development, and manufacturing in defense, energy and other advanced technology arenas. The Everest product line was developed within the Photonics Division, which is focused on the development of products containing advanced lasers, wireless and sensor technologies.