

5 May 2022

Dr. Paul W. Juodawlkis
MIT Lincoln Laboratory
Lexington, MA 02421

Dear Paul,

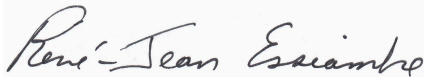
It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I provide this letter of support on behalf of the IEEE Photonics Society for the IEEE Milestone proposal entitled "Invention of the Semiconductor Laser" that is being submitted jointly by General Electric (GE), IBM, and MIT Lincoln Laboratory.

The semiconductor laser is truly one of the foundational technologies that has illuminated mankind's Information Age along with digital computing, microelectronics, and fiber-optic and wireless communications. When I reflect upon the sixty-year history of the development and commercialization of the semiconductor laser, I find it quite astounding that four research organizations (GE – Schenectady, IBM, GE – Syracuse, and MIT Lincoln Laboratory) independently and nearly simultaneously reported the first demonstrations of the semiconductor laser in the fall of 1962. While many other researchers and organizations have made countless contributions to the evolution and maturation of this technology, these four organizations are indisputably recognized as the ones that first reported the invention of the semiconductor laser over the brief span of a month.

I am very happy that these four organizations have collaborated on this joint IEEE Milestone proposal and strongly recommend joint recognition with award plaques being placed at the locations where this seminal work was performed.

Please let me know if there is anything else that I can do to help advance this proposal. Good luck and keep us informed on the progress of this Milestone.

Sincerely,



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