

Belarus/CSIR collaborative laser research shows good prospects

After a mere year of collaborating, a bilateral programme between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (Institute of Physics) and the CSIR National Laser Centre, has started to bear fruit and a joint scientific paper has been published. Senior laser scientists Vladimir Belyi and Valery Filippov from the academy, specifically the International Scientific Laboratory for Optical Diagnostics (ISL-LOD), recently came to South Africa, where they presented a series of talks at the centre.

Belyi, manager of the ISL-LOD, says, "We are really enjoying our work together, which involves the generation and application of vortex beams. This is the first successful joint project for the ISL-LOD. I am pleased to say that we have already published a paper together." The programme is funded by the National Research Foundation.

An optical vortex is a beam of light, the phase of which varies in a corkscrew-like manner along the beam's direction of propagation.

A first-timer to this country, Filippov said, "I am so impressed with the modern equipment I have seen. It is comparable to those used in European countries. Also the high level of investigations at South African universities was a surprise to me."

As part of the programme, CSIR researchers Mapule De Gama, Angela Dudley and Igor Litvin spent a month at the ISL-LOD in Belarus in September this year. Two ISL-LOD students will come to South Africa in early 2009. Belyi says the project will be long term and there are good prospects for the future.

Enquiries: [CSIR Communication](#)



From Left: Vladimir Belyi, Dr Andrew Forbes (senior CSIR laser scientist) and Valery Filippov



The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus headquarters in Minsk