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News@Nature.com, October 26, 2004

First Silicon Laser Pulses with Life

“Scientists have created the world’s first laser made from silicon. This is an important step in the effort to build computers that process information using light, rather than electricity.”

“There have been many attempts, but no-one has been able to get silicon to lase before now, says Bahram Jalali.”

“But it will be a few years yet before laser beams are whizzing about inside our desktop computer. Farther than turning electricity directly in to light, Jalali’s silicon laser is powered by another laser. It’s a common method of investigating new laser materials, but the jump of electricity will definitely have to be made before silicon laser can be used in an optical computer, says Jalali.”