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Pete Poirier is a scientist with the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center in San Diego, Calif. He has a master's degree in physics and more than 20 years of experience in electro-optics research including solid-state laser design for free space laser communications applications. His background includes solid-state laser research with diode pumped Nd:YAG and Nd:YALO, Ti:sapphire and OPO lasers, free space communication devices and systems (ultraviolet, visible and infrared) and active polarimetry (visible and infrared). He has authored or co-authored more than 15 publications in the area of electro-optics.