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## Editorial

### Higher and Higher

During the 10th European Conference on Optical Communication (held at Stuttgart) Standard Elektrik Lorenz AG (SEL, the German ITT subsidiary) organized a press conference with Dr. Charles Kao, who has been named "ITT Executive Scientist" in 1982 and who is planning to stay with the SEL research center for some time.

The main topic of Dr. Kao's research work within the last two years was the investigation of increase of bandwidth in optical communication systems. Dr. Kao first presented the reasons why much higher speeds (he once mentioned a number: 1000 Gbit/s) are needed: 1) some electronics like high speed computers are still limited by "slow" interconnection data transfer; 2) broad band services are needed in future including also a new form of information handling.

Dr. Kao outlined very shortly today's limits and proposed to look closer to a combined use of photons and electrons. Though he pointed out that it is still too early to speak about the realization possibilities of such super high speed system he announced the establishment of a research group headed by him at ITT which will dig into this problem.

Is this the step into a new area of optical communications?

Sincerely yours,

R. Th. Kersten

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