

Starting a Company In Tough Times



Dr. Susan Houde-Walter
CEO, LaserMax, Inc

PhD in Optics, Rochester 1987
Optics faculty, Rochester 1987-2005

This talk will describe the trials and rewards of founding and leading a company in the optics industry in economically challenging times.



3:00 pm, Monday, Jan 31, 2011
Sloan Auditorium, Goergen 101
Refreshments provided.

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CEO, LaserMax, Inc..

Abstract

It may be easier to start a company in flush times, but the business discipline required to survive in an economic drought can become the backbone of a strong company in good times and bad. The key factors in starting a successful company are the same in any event. The character and interests of the founders, their decisions on intellectual property, and the nature of the company's start-up funding, all have a profound effect on the shape of the company for years afterward.

Biography

Susan Houde-Walter taught Optical Science & Engineering for eighteen years at the University of Rochester, where she also conducted research in the molecular structure of multi-component glasses, laser materials, and optoelectronic design. She left in 2005 at the rank of Full Professor to assume the rank of CEO at her own company, LaserMax, Inc., in Rochester NY. Susan served as President of OSA (2005). She is currently an active member of the Army Science Board and Adjunct Professor of Optical Science at the University of Arizona in Tucson.