

One man and his lasers

By intrusiontruth

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Article 1 left some tantalizing breadcrumbs about the manager of our main character organization from this article series, Wuhan Xiaoruizhi. ‘What is he up to?’ We hear you cry. ‘And what is up with all the lasers?’

So, without further ado. Introducing: Deng Zhiyong.

Deng at surface glance is the manager and CEO of Wuhan Xiaoruizhi Science and Technology. As a reminder, this is a supposed information/network security company which recruits linguists and hackers for tasks including big data analysis, based in Wuhan Optics Valley.

A deeper dive reveals that Deng also serves or has served on the Board of Directors of a number of companies including Wuhan Laser Power Supply Technology LLC, and Wuhan Technology Innovation Facilitation Center. Furthermore, he holds official titles in three Chinese-government affiliated organizations: Director of the Foreign Exchange Center, Ministry of Science and Technology China; Director of the Hubei Wuhan China/Russian Technologic Cooperation Center, and Chief of the Department of Steelworks Management Administration, Dongxi, Wuhan. We have one busy man on our hands.

As our research continued, a clearer picture of Deng began to emerge. In particular, his side hustle as one of Wuhan’s foremost laser-related experts. Most of the companies where he sits on the board and the government departments he serves have some kind of laser-flavor. Deng is also one of the official representatives of Optics Valley, a geographical area of Wuhan which specializes in ‘opto-electronics’. Below is Deng at the 9th International Laser Summit of Optics Valley of China.



Within his laser-related activities, Deng seems to be most at ease in his role as the director of the Hubei Wuhan China/Russian Technological Cooperation Center. Numerous articles and images show him hosting delegations from the Russian Laser association, visiting Russian laser companies, and patenting joint inventions of laser technology alongside Russian scientists.

An Integral Light Concentrating Cavity for Double-rod Series Connection

Abstract

An integral light-gathering cavity for double-rod serial connection, including two pump lamps, two laser rods, left reflective tiles, right reflective tiles, upper reflective tiles, and lower reflective tiles. The pump lamps and laser rods are arranged in the cavity, the first half of the pump lamps and laser rods are arranged left and right, and the second half of the pump lamps and laser rods are arranged up and down. The left and right reflective tiles are combined to form the first reflective cavity. The semi-major axis of the elliptical section of the first reflective cavity is horizontal. The upper and lower reflective tiles are combined to form the second reflective cavity, the semi-major axis of the elliptical section of the second reflective cavity is in the vertical direction, and the pump lamp and laser rod in the second half are coaxial with the two focal lines of the second reflective cavity respectively, where the focal lines of the two laser rods are coaxial. The invention effectively solves the problem that the high-power output laser beam is distributed in an ellipse and the divergence angles in two directions are inconsistent, and greatly improves the output power and beam quality of the laser.

CN104092089B
China

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Other languages: English

Inventor: Tarasov Alexander Vasilyevich, Konstantin Yuri Pavlovich, Deng Zhiyong, Fu Jun, Xu Zhangdi, Shi Jian

Current Assignee: WUHAN XILU LASER TECHNOLOGY Co Ltd

Worldwide applications
2014 - 6N

The Russian laser delegation was surprised by the laser accessories of Xinte Optoelectronics!

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On November 4th, nearly 30 people including laser experts and entrepreneurs in the Russian laser industry, led by Professor Ivan, the president of the Russian Laser Association, visited Wuhan Xinte Optoelectronics Technology Co., Ltd. Professor Zhu Xiao, President of Wuhan China Optics Valley Laser Industry Association, and Deng Zhiyong, Director of Hubei Wuhan Sino-Russian Science and Technology Cooperation Center accompanied the visit.

Dr. Chen Yihong, chairman of the company, and relevant responsible persons warmly received the guests. Dr. Chen first expressed a warm welcome to the Russian laser delegation, and led a visit to the Xinte exhibition hall. After listening to Dr. Chen's introduction to the company's honor, product categories and characteristics, the members of the Russian delegation expressed great interest, and was surprised that all kinds of accessories of our laser equipment are involved, and expressed the hope for further cooperation. Wuhan Xinte Optoelectronics Technology Co., Ltd. is a core enterprise in China's Optics Valley laser industry and has the right to import and export. Over the years, Xinte Optoelectronics, as the largest, most complete and strongest laser accessories leader in the industry, has given full play to its own advantages, actively participated in international exchanges, and its products are sold at home and abroad.

Xinte Optoelectronics warmly welcomes delegations from all over the world to come to our company for exchange and study. Xinte Optoelectronics is determined to become the largest, most complete and strongest supplier of laser accessories in China, and is committed to providing customers with lasers and laser accessories with reasonable prices and excellent performance. Customer-centric, and success with customers.

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Delegation of Wuhan Optical Valley Laser Association

2015 March 21, Delegation of Wuhan Optical Valley Laser Association (Hubei, China) paid a visit to FEDAL company. Members of delegation:

Zhu Xiao (朱晓) – Professor of Huazhong University of Science & Technology (华中科技大学教授) chairman of China Optics Valley Laser Association of Wuhan (武汉中国光谷激光行业协会会长)

Deng Zhiyong (邓智勇) – Deputy Director of the Wuhan Sino-Russian Center of Scientific & Technical Cooperation, Hubei (湖北武汉中俄科技合作中心副主任)

Zhu Yun (朱耘) – Deputy Director of the Wuhan Sino-Russian Center of Scientific & Technical Cooperation, Hubei (湖北武汉中俄科技合作中心副主任)

Cheng Yihong (陈义红) – president of Wuhan Sitec Optronics Co. Ltd (武汉新特光电技术有限公司董事长)

Liu Yukui (刘玉葵) – Deputy Director of Wuhan Co-Walking Laser Tech. Co., Ltd; Wuhan (武汉光谷科威激光技术有限公司副总经理)

Zhao Jiang (赵江) – engineer Wuhan Co-Walking Laser Tech. Co., Ltd; Wuhan (武汉光谷科威激光技术有限公司工程师)

During the meeting President of FEDAL Company Alexey Fyodorov, Technical Director Alexander Kolesnikov, COO Zola Pavlova and Business Director Alexey Gayoso de los Santos showed FEDAL laser electronics manufacturing, located in Saint-Petersburg. New developments, such as Diode driver SF6000 and SF6015, Multichannel electric power supplied system for diode-pumped lasers, were shown to guests. Besides, FEDAL Company and Chinese partners agreed on further cooperation and equipment supply.



Dr. Alexander Shestakov, a well-known Russian laser scientist, and his team visited Shanghai Feibo Laser

Date: 2019-11-19

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On November 19, 2019, Dr. Alexander Shestakov, a well-known Russian laser scientist, Dr. Liao Xinsheng of Suzhou Changguang Huaxin Optoelectronics Technology Co., Ltd., and Deng Zhiyong, general manager of Wuhan Xiaoruizhi Technology Co., Ltd., visited Shanghai Feibo Laser Technology Co., Ltd. Had an in-depth discussion with Dr. Li Xiaojun, chairman and general manager of Feibo Laser, on the company's development, product features and future development trends of the laser industry.

Dr. Alexander Shestakov is the chief researcher of the Russian Polar Research Institute, a well-known laser scientist in Russia, and one of the founders of IRE Polys, the predecessor of the US IPG company.



Previous: [Focus] The "Mass Production Ceremony" of Feibo Laser's wholly-owned subsidiary is about to open

Next article: Feibo Laser successfully concluded its trip to Wuhan Optical Expo, and the Central China special session of the technical exchange meeting at the same time ended warmly

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But this is not all. Fascinating open source trade data demonstrates that Wuhan Xiaoruizhi exported a number of shipments of laser technology to Russian laser production firms during 2016 and 2017.

WUHAN XIAORUIZHI TECH CO.,LTD RECORDS

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UPDATED: 2017-07-22

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TOTAL SHIPMENTS FROM 2007-01-02 TO 2020-01-28

Precise data and chart data points are only available to paid subscribers

● Supplier Shipments

#	PRODUCT	IMPORTER	SUPPLIER	ARRIVAL DATE	DESTINATION	GROSS WEIGHT KGS
1	ОПТИЧЕСКИЕ ЭЛЕМЕНТЫ НЕОПРАВЛЕННЫЕ ИЗ ОПТИЧЕСКИ ОБРАБОТАННОГО СТЕКЛА, СПОСОБ ОБРАБОТКИ- ШЛИФОВКА, ПОЛИРОВКА, ПРЕДНАЗНАЧЕННЫ ДЛЯ ИЗГОТОВЛЕНИЯ ЛАЗЕРОВ /НЕ ЯВЛ. РОС И НЕ СОД. ВЧУ/ НЕ ВОЕННОГО НАЗНАЧЕНИЯ/ АКТИВНЫЕ ЭЛЕМЕНТЫ YAG:ND (АЛЮМО- ИТТРИЕВЫЙ ГРАНАТ ЛЕГИРОВ	ООО "ЛАССАРД"	WUHAN XIAORUIZHI TECH CO.,LTD	2017-07-22	RU	
2	ВОЛОКНА ОПТИЧЕСКИЕ И ЖГУТЫ ВОЛОКОННО-ОПТИЧЕСКИЕ; КАБЕЛИ ВОЛОКОННО-ОПТИЧЕСКИЕ КРОМЕ УКАЗАННЫХ В ТОВАРНОЙ ПОЗИЦИИ 8544; ЛИСТЫ И ПЛАСТИНЫ ИЗ ПОЛЯРИЗАЦИОННОГО МАТЕРИАЛА; ЛИНЗЫ,ПРИЗМЫ,ЗЕРКАЛА ПРОЧИЕ	ООО НПЦ ЭЛС	WUHAN XIAORUIZHI TECH CO., LTD	2017-01-24	CHINA	3 KGS
3	ОПТИЧЕСКИЙ МОНОКРИСТАЛЛИЧЕСКИЙ МОНОДОМЕННЫЙ ТАНТАЛАТ ЛИТИЯ ОТПОЛИРОВАННЫМИ ТОРЦАМИ (ГРАНИ XY)	ООО НПЦ "ЭЛС-94"	WUHAN XIAORUIZHI	2016-08-06	RU	0.7 KGS
4	ОПТИЧЕСКИЕ ЭЛЕМЕНТЫ ИЗ ИТТРИЙ-АЛЮМИНИЕВОГО ГРАНАТА (Y3AL5O2), НЕОПРАВЛЕННЫЕ, ФОРМА-ЦИЛИНДР, ПРОЗРАЧНЫЕ, ОБРАБОТКА - НАНЕСЕНО АНТИОТРАЖАЮЩЕЕ ПОКРЫТИЕ СИРЕНЕВОЙ ОКРАСКИ НА ТОРЦЕВЫЕ ПОВЕРХНОСТИ, ДЛЯ ИЗГОТ. ЛАЗЕРНОГО ТЕХНОЛОГИЧ. ОБОРУДОВАНИЯ /НЕ СОД. РЭС	ООО НПЦ "ЭЛС-94"	WUHAN XIAORUIZHI TECH CO.,LTD	2016-05-19	RU	0.64 KGS

#	PRODUCT	IMPORTER	SUPPLIER	ARRIVAL I
1	OPTICAL ELEMENTS FROM OPTICALLY PROCESSED GLASS, PROCESSING METHOD - GRINDING, POLISHING, INTENDED FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF LASERS / NOT YAVL. RES AND NOT SOD. HCF / NON-MAILITARY USE / ACTIVE ELEMENTS YAG:ND (YTTRIUM ALUMINUM GARNET LEGIR	LLC "LASSARD"	WUHAN XIAORUIZHI TECH CO.,LTD	2017-07-22
2	FIBER OPTICAL AND HARNESSSES FIBER-OPTICAL; FIBER-OPTICAL CABLES, EXCEPT AS STATED IN HEADING 8544; SHEETS AND PLATES OF POLARIZING MATERIAL; LENSES, PRISMS, MIRRORS OTHER	LLC NPC ELS	WUHAN XIAORUIZHI TECH CO., LTD	2017-01-24
3	OPTICAL SINGLE-CRYSTAL SINGLE-DOMAIN LITHIUM TANTALATE OF CONGRUENT COMPOSITION (LITAO3) IN THE FORM OF A RECTANGULAR CRAB 4.2X7.5X4.2 MM SIZE (XYZ), WITHOUT COLOR, UNRELATED, WITH POLISHED ENDS (XY FACES)	LLC NPC "ELS-94"	WUHAN XIAORUIZHI TECH CO.,LTD	2016-08-06
4	OPTICAL ELEMENTS FROM YTTRIUM-ALUMINUM GARNET (Y3AL5O2), UNRELATED, CYLINDER SHAPE, TRANSPARENT, PROCESSING - ANTI-REFLECTIVE COATING OF LILAC COLORING ON THE END SURFACES, FOR MANUFACTURED. LASER TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT /NOT SOD. RES	LLC NPC "ELS-94"	WUHAN XIAORUIZHI TECH CO.,LTD	2016-05-19

At team I-T this information has generated quite a few questions. Props to Deng for his scientific achievements, but how on earth does he have time for all this extra-curricular activity? What do lasers have to do with ‘network security’ and hacking? With registered capital of only RMB250,000 (USD 36,000) Xiaoruizhi can hardly claim to be big enough to be doing both. If Xiaoruizhi is a front company, why is it buying and selling real lasers with real money?

We let our imaginations run riot pondering these questions. Could it be that Deng, as the boss of a front company, doesn’t have a real job, and so is free to pursue his laser-related dreams using Xiaoruizhi funds? Could Deng have been co-opted by the MSS while running an initially legitimate laser company and forced to turn it into an APT shell? Or could it be that Wuhan Xiaoruizhi and Deng himself serve as the front for a separate strand of Chinese government activity...cozying up to Russian laser experts for the purposes of Chinese S&T advantage.

The latter point reminds us of something we read [recently](#).....

Now, of course, we have no proof here. But given Xiaoruizhi’s links to a number of MSS officers and the government links of its employees and Deng himself this is not beyond the realms of possibility.

Regardless of whether or not Deng is really spying on Russia, surely his position as effectively Wuhan’s laser envoy to Russia is somewhat undermined by the reported activity of APT31, which sat under his command (on paper at least) at Xiaoruizhi:

APT31 new dropper. Target destinations: Mongolia, Russia, the U.S., and elsewhere

Published on 3 August 2021

Introduction

PT Expert Security Center (PT ESC) specialists regularly track the activity of hacker groups and the emergence of new information security threats (threat intelligence). During such monitoring in April 2021, a mailing list with previously unknown malicious content was sent to Mongolia. Some of the files found during the study had rather interesting names ("хавсралт.scr" ["havsralt.scr"] (mong. attachment), "Информация_Р6_июнь_2021_года_2021062826109.exe") and, as the study showed, they contained a remote access trojan (RAT). Similar attacks were subsequently identified in Russia, Belarus, Canada, and the United States. According to PT ESC threat intelligence analysts, from January to July 2021, approximately 10 attacks were carried out using the discovered malware samples. A detailed analysis of malware samples, data on the paths on which working directories and registry keys were located, techniques and mechanisms used by the attackers (from the injection of malicious code to the logical blocks and structures used) helped correlate this malware with the activity of the APT31 group.

This group, also known as Judgment Panda (CrowdStrike) and Zirconium (Microsoft), has been active since at least 2016. The group is presumed to be of Chinese origin, providing data to the Chinese government and state-owned enterprises to achieve political, economic, and military advantages. Cyberespionage is of key interest. The attackers' targets include the government sector, aerospace and defense enterprises, as well as international financial companies and the high-tech sector. In different years, the group's victims have included the government of Finland and, it is presumed, the governments of Norway and Germany too. The group also attacked organizations and individuals close to U.S. presidential candidates during the 2020 campaign. Recent attacks on companies in France, involving the hacking of home and office routers, have also been linked with the group.

In this article, we will study the malware created by the group, focus in more detail on the types of droppers discovered and the tricks used by its developers. We will also present the criteria on the basis of which the attacks were attributed.

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3 AUG 2021, 15:25

Activity of APT hacking group detected in Russia for the first time — experts

APT31 has been active since at least 2016

MOSCOW, August 3. /TASS/. The activity of the APT31 hacking group, known for targeting government agencies around the world, has been detected in Russia for the first time, according to a study by the IT company Positive Technologies.

In the first half of 2021, the group sent more than a dozen malicious mailings, and traces of its attacks were found in Mongolia, the US, Canada, and Belarus. Now the APT31 group's activity has been detected in Russia.

"As part of a threat intelligence study, PT Expert Security Center experts detected emails with previously unseen malicious content sent to Mongolia. Then, similar attacks were detected in Russia, the United States, Canada, and the Republic of Belarus," according to the statement.

The criminals used malicious software code that allows them to control a victim's computer or network by using remote access. Phishing, one of the most common social engineering techniques, was used by the group as the initial attack vector, the experts say.

"While studying one of the latest malware samples used by the group, PT ESC experts detected a link to a phishing domain, which imitates the domain of federal government bodies and government bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation for the Internet segment.

"Over the year, APT31 has added and started to actively use new versions of malware. The group's infrastructure is also growing — all this, combined with the fact that the group has not previously attacked Russia, suggests that it is expanding to countries where its increasing activity can be detected, in particular our country. We believe that experts will soon reveal other tools used by the group, including in attacks against Russia, that can be identified by

Perhaps it is a case of Deng and APT31 keeping their friends close but their enemies closer. Or perhaps Deng's influence was the only thing stopping APT31 spying on Russia previously and since breaking free to new front companies the group has had free rein. And perhaps we will never know. One thing is for sure though, there are sure to be more secrets hiding under the metaphorical rock of Wuhan Xiaoruizhi Science and Technology than we have been able to tackle in this series. If you have anything to add to this or any part of our investigation, or to kick off a new one, please do get in touch. Our doors (inboxes) are always open to tips.

For now, though, friends of I-T, this is where we will leave you, until our next big investigation at least. It's been a blast. Until next time.

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