

Examples of Laser Applications

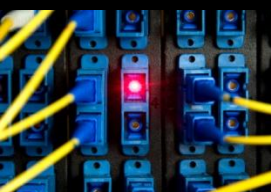


**1964 Laser
Guided Weapons**

1969 Laser Printer



**1970
Fiber Optic
Communications**



**1974
Bar Code Scanner**



**1982
CD Player**



**1987
Laser Vision
Correction Surgery**



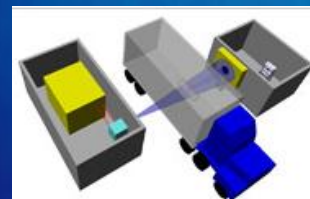
**1989
Hologram
Authentication**



**1995
DVD Player**



**20??
(in development)
Detection of
Nuclear Materials**



The Laser – “A Solution Looking For a Problem”

Critics dubbed the laser “a solution looking for a problem.” In fact, it took years for many potential uses of the laser to be recognized, and new laser applications are still being discovered today.

The basic research behind the laser was funded by the Department of Defense. Later applications were discovered as a result of other federally sponsored research and technological advances. Today, the laser has many everyday applications and is vital to the U.S. military, to health care, to consumer and business electronics, and to many other industries.

The laser is just one example of how basic research, which may begin with no specific technology or product in mind, can lead to important discoveries, life-changing inventions, and economic growth.

***Invest in Basic Research:
You Never Know Where
it Might Lead...***