Operator's Manual for

Diode-Pumped Solid-State Software

This manual covers the following power supplies:

58 PSM 290 58 PSM 300 58 PSM 310 58 PSM 320

MELLES GRIOT

Manufactured by Melles Griot Laser Group

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Laser Control Interface Software

1.1 Operating the System Using a Personal Computer

Your laser can be controlled by a computer using the included DPSS Laser Controller Interface software via your computer's serial port or via user developed code using a RS-232 command set. The 9-pin RS-232 port on the power supply provides access to a variety of functions that are not available on the front panel or through the External Interface connector on the front of the supply. These include:

- The ability to operate in automatic power control (APC) or automatic current control (ACC)
- The ability to vary the laser output power
- The ability to pulse-modulate the laser output
- Access to detailed diagnostic information

The DPSS Laser Controller Interface software is provided on a 3½-inch floppy disk with each power supply. The software may be used with any personal computer operating in a Windows 95/98/2000/NT/Me environment.

The RS-232 command set and syntax are discussed in detail in Chapter 2. Error codes can be found in Chapter 3.

1.2 Installing the Software

- 1. Insert the disk in your floppy drive. The disk contains a file named MG_GUI_10d_Installation.zip. This file must be unzipped by a program such as WinZip, StuffIt Expander or equivalent decompression software. Run WINZIP32.EXE (or a like program) and follow the instructions to unzip the installation program.
- 2. Double-click Setup.exe and follow the instructions to install the software on your hard drive. The installer will install a program entitled Melles Griot Laser Controller.

1.3 Connecting Your Computer to the Power Supply

Connect the laser and power supply following the instructions in the Hardware manual (included with your laser).

Connect your computer to the RS-232 port on the front panel of the power supply with a standard RS-232 serial cable (cable not included).

Turn the Laser Enable/Laser Disable key switch on the front panel of the power supply to the Laser Enable position and switch the AC Input rocker switch on the rear panel to the | (on) position.

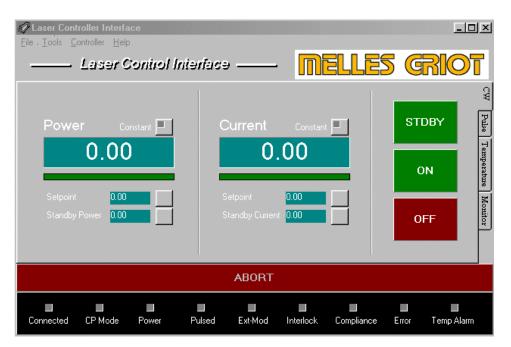
Double-click on the Melles Griot Laser Controller icon to launch the program and to bring up the CW screen of the laser control interface software shown in Figure 1-1.

Confirm the RS-232 communication port number, usually COM 1 or COM 2, for your computer using the following procedure:

- a. Select "Comm Settings..." from the "Controller" menu
- b. Select the port number to which the power supply is connected and click the OK button

Select "Connect" from the "Controller" menu to establish a serial connection with the power supply and note that at the bottom of the window, the "Connected" indicator turns green.

Figure 1-1
Laser control interface
main screen



1.4 CW Window

The CW window is divided into three main sections: Power, Current, and control buttons. In addition to these main sections, there is a red ABORT button that can be used to shut down the laser system at any point in case

of an emergency only, and an indicator section that shows the status of the system at any time.

The Power and Current sections display the laser output power and pump diode operating current, respectively, a selection button that activates constant power or constant current mode, and two input boxes, one for the respective parameter during operation and the other for the parameter when in the standby mode. To enter a parameter, click in the appropriate text box. The box will be activated and an arrow (\rightarrow) will appear in the box at the right of the window. Type the desired parameter, and then click on the arrow to register the value. (Note: Pressing the Enter key on the keyboard will not initiate the new value.)

1.5 Configuring Automatic Power Control (APC)

When in APC mode, the laser light output is maintained at a constant level and the current to the pump diode is continuously adjusted to maintain this level.

To place the system in APC mode, press the Constant button in the Power section of the screen. Enter the desired operating power in the Setpoint box and press the arrow (→) button to the right.

Note: You will not be able to select a power value that causes the laser to exceed the factory specified output power limit.

1.6 Configuring Automatic Current Control (ACC)

When in ACC mode, the pump diode current is maintained at a constant level and the laser light output will fluctuate.

To place the system in ACC mode, press the Constant button in the Current section of the screen. Enter the desired operating current in the Setpoint box and press the arrow (\rightarrow) button to the right.

Note: You will not be able to select a current value that causes the laser to exceed the factory specified output power limit.

1.7 Operating the Laser

To turn the laser on, click the ON button at the right of the display.

Note: If the system is in APC mode, the Power indicator will remain constant at the level entered in the Setpoint box, and the Current indicator will vary with time. If the system is in ACC mode, the opposite will be true.

To put the laser in the standby mode, click on the STDBY button. The current or power will drop to the preset standby value.

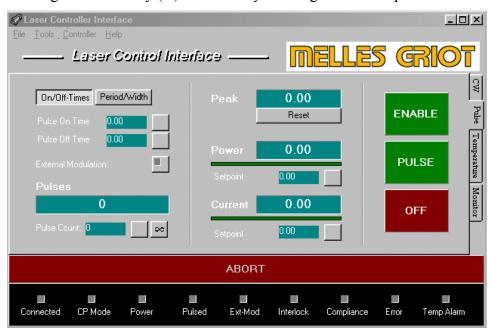
To turn the diode laser current off and stop laser emission, click on the OFF button

1.8 Pulse Window

The Pulse window, shown in Figure 1-2, is accessed by clicking on the Pulse tab at the right of the control screen. Pulses may be specified either by entering the pulse on and off times (by clicking on the On/Off-Times button), or by entering the pulse width and period (by clicking on the Period/Width button). As on the CW screen, when a text box is clicked, an arrow (\rightarrow) will appear in the adjacent box. Type in the appropriate parameters and click on the arrow to register the parameter.

The total number of pulses may be specified by entering a parameter in the Pulse Count entry box. During operation the number of pulses is displayed in the Pulses window. When the prescribed number of pulses is reached, pulsing is discontinued. The system can be set to continuous pulsing by clicking on the infinity (∞) button or by entering "0" for the pulse count.

Figure 1-2
Pulse Window



As in the case of cw operation, pulse power and current can be specified by entering values in the appropriate parameter boxes. If the system is in the APC mode, the Power indicator will remain constant at the level entered in the Setpoint box, and the Current indicator will vary with time. If the system is in ACC mode, the opposite will be true.

During operation, only the Peak power readout is accurately displayed. Depending upon the repetition rate, one may have to frequently click the "Reset" button on the screen under the Peak optical power reading. Both peak current and average power are not displayed accurately due to an unsynchronized sample circuit. Peak power is displayed on a sample and hold basis

The laser can be pulsed using an external TTL modulator by clicking on the External Modulation button and applying a TTL signal to the External Interface connector pins 1 (TTL in) and 15 (chassis ground). Maximum bandwidth of the external TTL input is approximately 3 kHz. A high signal level (+5 Vdc) turns the laser on, while a low signal voltage sets the laser at the standby current or the standby power level. The laser output power depends on the standby current or standby power setting.

To initiate pulsing, click on the ENABLE button. To discontinue pulsing, click on the DISABLE or OFF button. In DISABLE the pump diode laser current remains at approximately four amps if the system is in constant power mode, which is below its lasing threshold level. If the system is in APC mode and in DISABLE, the pump diode laser current returns to the Standby Current set by the user in the CW screen or the factory setting of approximately 5.0 amps.

After clicking the OFF button, the pump diode laser current returns to zero amps.

1.9 Temperature Window

The Temperature window, shown in Figure 1-3, displays the temperature, in ohms, of the various components in the system. The laser head has three 10,000 ohm thermistors whose resistance values correlate to operating temperature. A reading of 10,000 ohms is approximately 25°C (for a temperature versus resistance table, please refer to the Hardware Operator's Manual). As the resistance value decreases the actual temperature is increasing. As the resistance value increases the actual is thus decreasing. There are no user accessible controls in this window; the values are for diagnostic purposes only. The ABORT button functions in this screen for laser system shut down.

The Laser Temp and Crystal Temp readings should match their respective setpoint values within approximately 100 ohms when the laser is on for proper operation.

If the Base Temp reading approaches 4500 ohms, the laser head heat sink is starting to reach its maximum thermal capacity. One should verify that the ambient air temperature at the inlet of the heatsink is within the temperature range specification for the system. Also, ensure that there is adequate circulation in and out of the laser head. A temperature protect circuit will automatically shut down the diode laser current and both thermal electric coolers inside the laser head upon a Base Temp reading of 4000 ohms or approximately 46°C.

Figure 1-3 Laser control interface

temperature screen

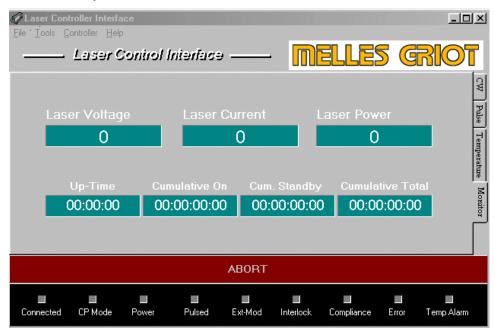
Laser Controller Interface File Tools Controller Help **MELLES GRIOT** Laser Control Interface -Crystal Temp Alarm Laser Temp Alarm 0 0 0 0 0 ABORT CP Mode Ext-Mod Connected Pulsed Interlock Compliance Temp Alarm

Figure 4.4
Laser control interface information screen

1.10 Monitor Window

The Monitor window, shown in Figure 1-4, displays the pump laser diode voltage and current, laser output power, along with cumulative operating times. "Up-Time" is the total amount of time that ac power has been applied to the power supply. "Cumulative On" is the total amount of lasing time for the laser head. "Cum. Standby" is the total amount of time the laser has been in the Standby mode. "Cumulative Total" is the total of both Standby and On time.

Figure 1-4
Monitor screen



RS-232 Command Set

2.1 Available Commands

General System Commands

ABOR *CLR *IDN *RST STOP SYS:ERR TIME?

Laser Control Commands

LAS:CUR:REF LAS:INIT:TIME LAS:MODE LAS:ON:TIME
LAS:POW:REF LAS:RAMP:TIME LAS:STAN:TIME
LAS:TOT:TIME READ:LAS:CUR? READ:LAS:POW? READ:LAS:VOLT?

READ:PEAK? STAN:CUR:REF STAN:POW:REF

Pulsing Commands

PULSE:COUN PULSE:INIT PULSE:ON:TIME PULSE:OFF:TIME PULSE:PROG PULSE:STAT PULSE:WID

External Modulation Commands

EX:MODU:STAT

General Utility Commands

' " COM:BAUD:RATE COM:ECHO COM:TERM:TYPE LOAD:FACT PASS SAVE SET:PASS

2.2 Commands in Alphabetical Order

or "

Command: Repeat Last Command

Function: After entering a valid command (e.g. PULS: INIT 5),

pressing the apostrophe or quote-mark key will cause the power supply to re-execute the last command *without* preceding data or query supplied. For example, if

PULS:INIT 5 had been entered, supplying "will cause the power supply to execute PULS:INIT. "? 10 will cause

the power supply to execute PULS: INIT? 10

*CLR

Command: Clear System Status

Function: This causes all error bits and all pending command error

listings to be cleared. It does not reset the lower bits of the

STAT: COM flag, the operational/status bits of the STAT: LAS, STAT: LTEC, STAT: XTEC, etc. flags.

*IDN?

Command: System Identification

Function: Identify -- query only, ignores any supplied arguments. The

command returns a comma-separated string consisting of

four fields similar to the following:

Melles Griot, 58-PSM-290, 1051 x66, 1.03a

The fields are:

Manufacturer, Model, Serial Number Hardware Revision,

Software Revision.

This string is echoed to the host upon successful power-up

as part of the power-on sequence.

*RST

Command: Reset

Function: Performs a system reset by ignoring watchdog timer resets.

ABOR

Command: Emergency Abort

Function: Immediately shuts off laser. Has no effect if laser is

currently OFF.

COM:BAUD:RATE?[9600/19K/38K/4800/2400/1200/600/300]

Command: Set Communications Baud Rate in bits per second

Function: Specifies baud rate to send/receive data from host. If baud

rate is supplied, change is immediate: the prompt character

following (either "> " or "* ", depending on error

condition), will be transmitted at the specified rate.

NOTE: Factory default setting is 9600 baud. Baud rate must match

DPSS Control software setup or no link shall be made.

Each character sent is 10 bits.

COM:ECHO[?][state]

Command: Set Communications Echo

Function: State may be either 1 (on) or 0 (off). If echo is on, all

characters received from the host are echoed back immediately. When a CR or LF is received, the

COMM: TERM: TYPE termination sequence is echoed back to

the host instead of the CR or LF received.

NOTE: Factory Default setting is ON.

COM:TERM:TYPE[?][crlf/cr/lf]

Command: Set End-of-Line Mode

Function: Specifies the end-of-message sequence sent from the power

supply back to the host. Valid settings are:

CRLF both carriage return & line feed are echoed.

CR carriage return only echoed

LF linefeed character only echoed.

Factory default setting is CRLF

EXT:MODU:STAT? [off/on]

Command: External Modulation State

Function: Specifies whether external (TTL) modulation is active when

the laser is placed in the ON state. If active, the output follows the TTL state applied at the external modulation input, between the Standby (low) and ON (high) states.

Example: > ext:modu:stat?

0,OFF

> ext:modu:stat? on

1,ON >

LAS:CURR:REF? [amperes]

Command: Pump Diode Operating Current

Function: Specifies the operating current for the pump diode in the

ON state. amperes may be 0.010 to LAS: CURR: LIM

amperes.

NOTE: During operation, this value may limit the LAS: POW: REF

setting, since laser power, after many hours of operation, may require increased current. In the constant power mode

of operation, this is effectively a primary current limit for the laser head

Example: > las:curr:ref?

15.00

LAS:INIT:TIME? [milliseconds]

Command: Laser Turn-On Delay Time

Function: Specifies the amount of time (in milliseconds) that should

elapse from the OFF to Standby or ON laser state.

milliseconds may be between 3000 and 60000. Factory

default time is 3000 milliseconds.

Example: > las:init:time?

3000

> las:init:time? 5000

5000 >

LAS:MODE? [pow/curr]

Command: Laser Operating Mode

Function: Places the laser in the constant output power (APC) or

constant diode current (ACC) mode of operation. Command

is immediate, regardless of laser state.

Example: > las:mode?

1,CUR >

LAS:ON:TIME?

Command: Laser Cumulative Run Time

Function: Returns the total amount of time the laser head has been in

the ON state. The command is query-only.

Format returned is HHHH: MM: SS

Example: > las:on:time?

00:00:22

>

LAS:POW:REF? [watts]

Command: Laser Output Power Level in watts

Function: Sets the operating power for the laser in the ON state (valid

only for LAS: MODE pow). It is possible that the desired

operating power cannot be reached due to either a low setting on LAS: CURR: REF or LAS: CURR: LIM.

Example: > las:pow:ref?

1.000

> las:pow:ref? 1.5

1.500

LAS:RAMP:TIME? [milliseconds]

Command: On-Ramp Time in milliseconds

Function: Specifies the amount of time to reach Standby or ON

operating level from the OFF condition. The ramp-up

occurs after LAS: INIT: TIME has expired.

Ramp time does not occur when switching between ON

and Standby levels.

Example: > las:ramp:time?

1000

(one second ramp)

> las:ramp:time? 2000

2000

(two second ramp)

LAS:STAN:TIME?

Command: Laser Cumulative Standby Time

Function: Returns the total amount of time the Laser has been in the

Standby mode. Command is query-only.

Format returned is HHHH: MM: SS

Example: > las:stan:time?

00:00:38

>

LAS:STAT? [off/on/stan]

Command: Laser State

Function: Places the laser in the specified state.

If the laser is currently off, the laser will reach the specified

condition after LAS: INIT: TIME delay.

If the laser is currently in the standby or on mode, the

command has immediate effect.

Specifying off from any state executes immediately.

Example: > las:stat? on

3, PEND

>

From a laser-off state, the command laser: state? on will return the string

3, PENDING

immediately. This is because execution takes precedence over query in dual-context statements.

LAS:TOT:TIME?

Command: Laser Cumulative On Time

Function: Returns the total amount of run-time (both standby and on)

that the laser head currently has. This is a query-only command. This is kept in non-volatile memory and is updated between power cycles and resets. The ON and Standby times are sampled while the laser is being

internally modulated and the corresponding LAS:ON:TIME or LAS:OFF:TIME is updated accordingly during that

sample period.

Example: > las:tot:time?

00:01:00

>

LOAD:FACT?

Command: Recall Stored Operating Parameters

Function: This command reloads factory default values as shipped

from Melles Griot. The command also replaces the existing

user password with the default user password: admin

Example: > load:fact?

0, No errors

>

PASS? [password]

Command: Enter/Leave Password Mode

Function: Entering PASS with no query and no (or incorrect)

password clears password mode.

Entering PASS? leaves current mode intact, and returns

state (0, disabled or 1, enabled)

Entering PASS? <password> enters password mode. (supplying the query will return success or failure)

NOTE: Factory default password is admin. Passwords are case

sensitive, and must be between 1 and 15 chars.

PULS:COUN? [integer]

Command: Pulse Count

Function: This command specifies the number of pulses to initiate.

Internal pulsing must NOT be presently taking place, or the power supply will ignore the integer value. integer may range from 0 to 65535, where 0 means "an infinite

number of pulses".

Example: > puls:coun?

1

> puls:coun? 6

о >

PULS:INIT? [value]

Command: Pulse Sequence Initiation

Function: If the laser is in the standby state, this command initiates

internal modulation (pulsing). value is optional -- if supplied, PULS: COUN is over-written and the sequence produces value pulses. If not supplied, the system uses

PULS: COUN number of pulses.

Example: > puls:init 5

>

PULS:OFF:TIME? [value]

Command: Pulse OFF-Time

Function: Specifies the amount of time an internal pulse should be

OFF. value may be 0.25 to (60000 - PULS:ON:TIME). Time is rounded to nearest 0.25 millisecond value by the power supply. The factory default value is 5.0 milliseconds.

Using this command will adjust the values currently in

PULS: WID and PULS: PER.

Example: > puls:off:time?

1.00

PULS:ON:TIME? [milliseconds]

Command: Pulse On Time

Function: Specifies the amount of time an internal pulse should be on.

milliseconds may be 0.25 to (60000 -

PULS:OFF: TIME). Time is rounded to nearest 0.25 millisecond value. Using this command will adjust the values currently in PULS:WID and PULS:PER. Factory

default value is 5.0 milliseconds.

Example: > puls:on:time?

1.00

PULS:PER? [milliseconds]

Command: Pulse Period

Function: Specifies the total amount of time for a complete pulse,

which includes the initial on time and the dead (Standby level) time in between. Value may be PULS:WID + 0.25 milliseconds to 60,000 milliseconds. Resolution is 0.25

milliseconds.

Example: > puls:per?

2.00

PULS:PROG?

Command: Pulse Progress

Function: This is a query-only command which returns the number of

pulses which have currently completed. The number (count) returned may not be accurate, depending on the

combination of PULS:PER / PULS:WID /

PULS:ON:TIME / PULS:OFF:TIME and the baud rate currently selected. If pulsing is currently not active, the last

completed number will be returned instead.

Example: > puls:prog?

10

PULS:STAT? [off/on]

Command: Pulse Status

Function: If the laser is in standby, this command turns the internal

modulation on or off. The command has no effect unless the laser is currently in standby. The command may be used to stop pulsing if internal modulation is currently taking place. The STOP command will also stop internal

modulation and place the laser in standby.

example: > puls:stat?

0,Off

> puls:stat? on

0,Off

* sys:err?

200, Setting conflict // -- laser was NOT

in standby mode...

>

PULS:WID? [milliseconds]

Command: Pulse Width

Function: Specifies the amount of time for the on time of a pulse.

Value may be 0.25 milliseconds to PULS: PER - 0.25

milliseconds. Resolution is 0.25 milliseconds.

Example: > puls:wid?

1.00

NOTE: It is *strongly* recommended that the user adhere to using

either PULS:OFF:TIME and PULS:ON:TIME or PULS:PER and PULS:WID commands. For hardware

(internal timer) reasons, the times are evaluated as a period

and a width by the embedded software.

READ:LAS:CURR?

Command: Read Laser Current

Function: Returns laser current (amps, 0 to 30 Amps, 10 mA

resolution)

READ:LAS:POW?

Command: Read Laser Power

Function: Returns laser power (watts, 0 to 5 watts, 1 mW resolution)

READ:LAS:VOLT?

Command: Read Laser Voltage

Function: Returns laser voltage (volts, 0 to 5 volts, 1 mV resolution)

READ:PEAK?

Command: Read Peak Detector

Function: Returns a "dimensionless" number between 0 and 1023

from the internal 10-bit peak detector. Reading this value immediately resets the peak detector. The number may be

scaled by the user as desired to correlate readings to "power" or "current".

SAVE[?]

Command: Save Current Operating Parameters

Function: The system must be in password mode. This command will

cause the power supply to save all current settings

(operating current, operating power, standby current, serial baud rates, echo, line termination, etc.). Factory default settings may be recovered using the LOAD: FACT command.

SET:PASS? [new_password]

Command: Set New Password

Function: Command has no effect unless unit is already in password

mode.

New password takes effect immediately upon success.

To recover default password, the LOAD: FACT command must be used, which will also restore all other parameters

to default values.

STAN:CURR:REF? [amps]

Command: Laser Standby Levels

Function: Specifies the operating current for the laser in the standby

state. Amps may be 0.010 to LAS: CURR: REF amperes.

NOTE: During operation, this value may limit the STAN: POW: REF

setting, since laser power, after many hours of operation, may require increased current. In the constant power mode of operation, this is effectively a primary current limit for

the laser head.

Example: > stan:curr:ref?

5.00

> stan:curr:ref? 20

5.00

* sys:err?

201, Data range err

>

STAN:POW:REF? [watts]

Command: Standby Operating Power

Function: Sets the operating power for the laser in the standby state

(valid only for LAS: MODE pow). Watts may be any value

from 0.001 to LAS: POW: REF

It is possible that the desired operating power cannot be reached due to either a low setting on STAN: CURR: REF or

LAS:CURR:LIM.

Example: > stan:pow:ref?

0.005

> stan:pow:ref? 0.5

0.500

STOP

Command: Stop Command

Function:

Stops internal modulation and places laser in Standby mode. If Laser was ON, places laser in Standby mode. Has no effect if laser is already off.

SYS:ERR?

Function:

Command: Retrieve Command Errors

Causes a last-in-first-out reply of any previous commands or queries that did not parse properly, whose arguments were not within allowable limits, or errors that have been internally generated by the system. These typically include misspelled commands and/or arguments, properly formatted commands with out-of-range data supplied, or commands that could not be implemented due to current conditions (such as "LAS ON" with a severe system error condition present). If an error is pending in the buffer, the prompt changes from "> " to "* " at the ANSI console. Reading the last error changes the prompt back to the "> " condition.

In addition to STAT command bytes, this query returns a string containing a number, a comma, and a string representation of the error.

Errors are returned on a last-in first-out basis, with a maximum error list quantity of six. Syntax: SYS:ERR?

TIME?

Command: System Up Time

Function: Returns the amount of time since the power supply has

been powered up or since the last reset. Rolls over after 2^{32}

milliseconds (49.7 days or 1192.8 hours).

Time is returned in HHHH: MM: SS format.

Example: > time?

120:07:10

Error Codes

3.1 Error Codes

The following code are returned if an error is asked for by SYS: ERR?

```
NO ERR,
                 // 0,No errors
                // 0, Save OK
SAVE OK,
CMD ERR,
                // 100, Command Error
SYNTAX ERR,
                // 101, Syntax Error
IGNORE PARM,
                // 102, Parameter ignored
PASS NEEDED,
                // 103, Password Required
                // 104, Missing Parameter
PARM NEEDED,
                // 105, Undefined Header
UNDEF HEADER,
BAD STRING,
                // 107, Invalid string data
                // 108, Invalid numeric data
BAD NUMBER,
                // 200, Settings conflict
SET CONFLICT,
RANGE ERROR,
                // 201, Data range err
                // 400, Self-test failed
BAD SELF TEST,
LOST CAL,
                // 300,Cal memory lost
LOST CONFIG,
                // 301, Config mem lost
                // 302, Fact config lost
LOST FACT,
               // 303, User config lost
LOST USER,
LOST INFO,
                // 304, Unit Info lost
LOST TIMES,
                // 305,On/Off Times lost
NO ARGS,
               // 500, No Value Supplied
EE_WRITE_FAIL, // 501,EE Write Failed
INSECURE,
               // 502, Security Failure
ILLEGAL,
                // 503, Value Not Allowed
                // 600, Hardware Error
HARDWARE,
```

All 60X series codes are also conveyed by a flashing System Fault LED blinking (601 = 1 blink, 602 = 2 blinks, etc.)

```
INTERLOCK OPEN,
                  // 601, Interlock Open
COMPLIANCE LIM,
                  // 602, Compliance Limit
BASE OVR UNDR,
                  // 603, Base Temp Err
XTAL OVR UNDR,
                 // 604, Xtal Temp Err
LASE OVR UNDR,
                  // 605, Las Temp Err
PWR SUPP ERR, // 606, Pwr Supply Err
AD_READ_ERR, // 607, Hdwe Read Err
TEMP_INTLK_MSG, // 608, Temp_Interlock
INTERLOCK FAIL, // 609, Intlock Ctl Fail
                  // 610, Photodiode Fail
PD_FAIL,
                  // 611,AC Mains Fail
AC FAIL,
DC_FAIL,
MISS_HDWE,
                 // 612,DC Supply Fail
                 // 613, Missing Hardware
Q OVERFLOW,
                  // 999, Queue Overflow
                  // -1, Undefined error
UNDEF ERROR,
```