WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system, comprising:

a conditioning device including:

a diffuser;

a lens configured to focus a beam of laser energy onto the diffuser; and

an iris configured to transmit at least a portion of the beam of laser energy transmitted by the diffuser.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the conditioning device further includes a waveplate arranged between the diffuser and the lens.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the waveplate is a quarter waveplate.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a photodetector having an optical input arranged to receive the beam of laser energy output from the conditioning device.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising a deflector operative to deflect the beam of laser energy and arranged optically upstream of the conditioning device.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the diffuser is formed of non-porous PTFE.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the diffuser is formed of porous PTFE.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the diffuser is not formed of porous PTFE, alumina, fused silica, white glass, polypropylene or cellulose triacetate (TAC).

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the diffuser is formed of a material that exhibits no fluorescence in presence of laser energy having a wavelength in the ultra-violet (UV) range of the electromagnetic spectrum.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the conditioning device does not include a color filter.

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11. A method, comprising:

focusing a beam of laser energy having a wavelength in the ultra-violet (UV) range of the electromagnetic spectrum;

diffusing the focused beam of laser energy; and

propagating at least a portion of the diffused beam of laser energy through an aperture and onto a photodetector.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising propagating the focused beam of laser energy through a waveplate before diffusing the focused beam of laser energy.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the waveplate is a quarter waveplate.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising deflecting the beam of laser energy, wherein focusing the beam of laser energy includes focusing the deflected beam of laser energy.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein diffusing the beam of laser energy includes diffusing the beam of laser energy using a diffuser formed of non-porous PTFE.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein diffusing the beam of laser energy includes diffusing the beam of laser energy using a diffuser formed of porous PTFE.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein diffusing the beam of laser energy includes diffusing the beam of laser energy using a diffuser that is not formed of porous PTFE, alumina, fused silica, white glass, polypropylene or cellulose triacetate (TAC).

18. The method of claim 11, wherein diffusing the beam of laser energy includes diffusing the beam of laser energy using a diffuser formed of a material that exhibits no fluorescence in presence of laser energy having a wavelength in the UV range of the electromagnetic spectrum.