US 20230231358A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2023/0231358 A1**

Kovsh et al. (43) **Pub. Date: Jul. 20, 2023**

(54) **OPTICAL COMMUNICATION INTERFACE**

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(21) Appl. No.: **18/162,004**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 31, 2023**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 16/938,581, filed on Jul. 24, 2020, now Pat. No. 11,594,854.

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**

H01S 5/02251	(2006.01)
H01S 5/50	(2006.01)
G02B 6/42	(2006.01)
H01S 5/065	(2006.01)
H04B 10/70	(2006.01)
H04B 10/50	(2006.01)
H01S 5/34	(2006.01)
H01S 5/14	(2006.01)
H04B 10/524	(2006.01)
H04B 10/54	(2006.01)
H04B 10/564	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***H01S 5/02251*** (2021.01); ***H01S 5/50*** (2013.01); ***G02B 6/4296*** (2013.01); ***G02B 6/4204*** (2013.01); ***H01S 5/0651*** (2013.01); ***G02B 6/4292*** (2013.01); ***H04B 10/70*** (2013.01); ***H04B 10/503*** (2013.01); ***H01S 5/3412*** (2013.01); ***H01S 5/146*** (2013.01); ***H04B 10/505*** (2013.01); ***H04B 10/506*** (2013.01); ***H04B 10/524*** (2013.01); ***H04B 10/541*** (2013.01); ***H04B 10/564*** (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Embodiments of the present disclosure include optical transmitters and transceivers with improved reliability. In some embodiments, the optical transmitters are used in network devices, such as in conjunction with a network switch. In one embodiment, lasers are operated at low power to improve reliability and power consumption. The output of the laser may be modulated by a non-direct modulator and received by integrated optical components, such as a modulator and/or multiplexer. The output of the optical components may be amplified by a semiconductor optical amplifier (SOA). Various advantageous configurations of lasers, optical components, and SOAs are disclosed. In some embodiments, SOAs are configured as part of a pluggable optical communication module, for example.