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Laser exposures are characterized by a power (Φ), energy (Q), radiant exposure (H), or irradiance (E). Each of these four radiometric quantities are related to each other through the exposure area and duration.

For example, if a laser outputs a power of 100 mW for a duration of 0.25 s, then the energy delivered during the exposure will be 25.0 mJ, or 0.025 J.