

Brussels, February 2012

***Key Enabling Technologies: European Innovation Policy in the Focus of the next
Photonics21 Annual Meeting in Brussels***

Major highlights comprise a Keynote Speech by Commissioner Neelie Kroes and a High Level Panel debate with representatives from Parliament, Commission, Industry and Science on future funding concepts and Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in the area of research and innovation

The way forward towards the future EU Framework Programme “Horizon 2020” and the founding of a Photonics Public Private Partnership (PPP) will be in the focus of the 6. Annual Meeting of the European Technology Platform Photonics21, which will take place on March 27 & 28, 2012 in the Hotel Huisa President Park in Brussels, Belgium.

The agenda will put special emphasis on future research and innovation concepts and the European photonics strategy as a Key Enabling Technology (KET) to enhance the competitiveness of European industry and contribute to solve the societal challenges in Europe such as aging society, sustainability and energy efficiency or security.

Representing more than 2000 members from industry, research and politics, the Photonics21 Annual Meeting has become the major event for the European photonics community, thus providing a unique forum for discussing and networking.

European Commission Vice President Neelie Kroes considered the upcoming Annual Meeting as “a milestone event” with regard to the future role photonics will play in “Horizon 2020” and will provide the keynote speech at the General Assembly on the 28 March 2012.

A high level panel discussion with representatives from the European parliament, the EU Commission as well as from photonics industry and science will promise further interesting discussions and insights of how to speed up the innovation process in Europe and how to better pool resources.

Additional Details

At the General Assembly attendees, amongst other topics, will be further informed about the platform’s activities in 2011, the final recommendations of the “Key Enabling Technologies Initiative” as well as the activities of the Photonics21 political “Mirror Group”. More in-depth information on current and upcoming

programs and funding schemes are subject of the speech from Thierry van der Pyl, Director European Commission.

In the afternoon, the seven Photonics21 work groups around Information & Communication; Industrial Production & Quality; Life Science and Health; Emerging Lighting, Electronics and Displays; Security, Metrology and Sensors; Design and Manufacturing of Components and Systems as well as Photonics Education & Training and Research Infrastructure will concentrate on Road Mapping research and innovation towards 2020.

The public event will start with an evening welcome reception on the 27 March 2012 at the Hotel Husa President Park. A highlight of this first evening will be the Photonics21 Student Innovation Award 2012, which recognizes innovative work from young researchers.

The registration fee for the 6th Photonics 21 Annual Meeting of Euro 180 is covering entrance to all sessions, lunch, coffee breaks and the evening reception. Interested participants can register online at

<http://www.photonics21.org/index.php>

For Media representatives the entrance is free of charge. Please tick the “Press” button on the registration page to get free entrance.

http://www.photonics21.org/registration_annual_meeting.php

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About Photonics21

In December 2005 the European Technology Platform “Photonics21” was set up as an industry driven platform to unify the community in the area of optical technologies. Today, more than 2,000 representatives of industry and science from most European countries are involved in it. Leading companies and research units have joined together to further advance Europe’s position in optical technologies. Photonics experts from industry and research are working in seven teams to develop research priorities and recommended procedures for the European Commission as well as strategies and issues to promote European cooperation. Major publications comprise the Photonics21 Strategic Research Agenda “Lighting the way ahead”, the 2020 outlook “Photonics – Our Vision for a Key Enabling Technology” and the economic impact study “The

leverage effect of Photonics Technologies” which looks into the contribution photonics has – and will have in the course of the next ten years - on the key societal challenges of Europe.

In September 2009, the European Commission defined photonics as one of five European Key Enabling Technologies (KET's) and set up a High Level Expert Group of Science and Industry Representatives, where Photonics21 was represented, to develop possible policy measures to promote the industrial take-up of KETs by EU industries. In its final report published in June 2011 the group proposes 11 policy recommendations for the development and deployment of KETs in Europe, which acts as input for the next European Innovation Framework Programme “Horizon 2020”.

About Photonics Industry

The current global photonics market is estimated to be €300 billion. Europe’s share of this world market is approaching €60 billion, representing 20% of the total market. The European photonics industry has many market-leading industrial players and more than 5000 highly innovative SMEs. It employs ~ 300,000 employees directly, with subcontractors employing many more. The estimated annual growth rate of the €300 billion global photonics market is now greater than 10%. Between 2005 and 2008 this rapid growth resulted in more than 40,000 new jobs being created in Europe.

Our Sponsors

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The Photonics21 Student innovation Award is sponsored by SPIE Europe, Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute and the European Commission

