

# *Newsletter*

**No. 9**

**August 2008**

Dear members of Photonics21,

We send you the latest news of the Photonics21 platform. This time we have some interesting information about the meeting of Martin Goetzeler with Viviane Reding, results of workgroup and cluster meetings, new FP7 projects, update information on the ICT work programme as well as on a funding programme for SME and upcoming events.

Have a nice holiday!

Best wishes

Your Photonics21 secretariat

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- **Photonics21 president met EU-Commissioner Viviane Reding**
  - **FP7 project Phorce21 supports platform activities**
  - **Results of the Work Group 7 workshop - "Industry Input to Photonics education"**
  - **Photonics21 Mirror Group Meeting**
  - **ICT 2009 - 2010 Workprogramme**
  - **European Photonics Cluster Meeting**
  - **Survey on the Swedish photonics industry published**
  - **Eurostars funding programme for SME**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Concertation meeting - FP7 Photonics projects September 2008, Barcelona**
  - **Summer University Bordeaux: "Photonics and laser education within clusters - a global approach"**
  - **ECOC 2008 in Brussels Expo, Belgium**
  - **EU-Russia Information and Brokerage Event in Moscow**
  - **EOS Annual Meeting 2008**
  - **New Photonics21 members**
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**Photonics21 president Martin Goetzeler met with EU-Commissioner Viviane Reding**

Martin Goetzeler, president of Photonics21 and CEO of Osram met with Commissioner Viviane Reding on the 11th of June 2008 in Brussels. This was their first meeting since Martin Goetzeler took over from Alexander von Witzleben as president of Photonics21 last December.

The main purpose of this strategic meeting was to discuss the progress that Photonics21 has made in the last two years in bringing together the key research players in Europe. Other topics which were covered included education and training in photonics, the contribution of photonics to key policy areas such as energy saving, future directions for Photonics21 and photonics research in Framework Programme 7.

Martin Goetzeler informed Viviane Reding, who actively supported the initiation of Photonics in 2005, about the ongoing activities, achievements and future developments of Photonics21. Mrs. Reding was especially impressed by the high number of more than 950 members Photonics21 has today and the new Photonics21 initiative to improve photonics education in Europe. Mrs. Reding pointed out that the Erasmus mundus programme in Photonics would be a good link when comes coordination of Photonics curricula in Europe. Furthermore it was discussed how Photonics could support a switch to new energy saving lighting solutions



EU-Commissioner Viviane Reding and Martin Goetzeler

### **FP7 project Phorce21 supports platform activities**

The FP7 coordination and support action “Phorce21” was prepared to provide logistical support to the Photonics21 activities. This way the platform secretariat which so far worked on a voluntary basis will be able to improve its services to Photonics21 members. Apart from the Photonics21 secretariat located at the VDI Technologiezentrum GmbH (project coordinator), the Phorce21 consortium consists of following members: Nederlandse Organisatie Voor Toegepast-Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek TNO, NL; Enterprise Ireland, IE; Interuniversitair Micro-Electronica Centrum, IMEC, BE; European Optical Society, Promouvoir La Vallee De L'optique, OpticsValley, FR.

Phorce21 will support Photonics21 activities at all levels, this includes:

- organisation of platform events
- improved communication and dissemination of up to date information to all Photonics21 members (including comprehensive information on news or events of relevance to the European Photonics community news)
  - relaunched website with improved services to members
  - newsletter in a new design and additional information
- improving the visibility of the Photonics topic in opinion forming media
- improve transparency of Photonics in Europe, e.g. collection of information on European Photonics research and industry capabilities
- preparation of strategic documents (logistical support)
- assistance in starting cooperation with non-European partner organisation
- trigger cooperation on Photonics education in Europe

Phorce21 has started in July 2008. For further information please contact Markus Wilkens at [secretariat@photonics21.org](mailto:secretariat@photonics21.org)



### **Results of Work Group 7 workshop - “Industry Input to Photonics education”, 4th June 2008, Brussels**

As Photonics is a largely increasing sector the future growth of the Photonics industry heavily relies on well qualified workforce. In view of an increasing skills shortage problem Photonics education and training becomes an increasingly important issue to the Photonics industry in Europe. Today already there is a great lack of well educated and skilled employees. This gap needs to be bridged.

To this end experts from industry and academia met on the 4<sup>th</sup> June at the European Commission premises in Brussels to overcome the problem.

At the Workgroup 7 meeting in June experts on Photonics education met and discussed potential ways of improving the situation at all levels of education in Europe. Some “best

practice” examples on national photonics education schemes were presented. However, it was common sense that the ties between industry and academia need to be strengthened in order to tackle the skills shortage problem. Workshop participants from industry and science discussed potential ways how to tackle this issue on European level.

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### **Photonics21 Mirror Group Meeting**

The Mirror Group brings together the representatives of the national funding bodies dealing with photonics research.

The Mirror Group, which is chaired by the European Commission, was set up a year ago and has met four times so far, the last meeting taking place on the 12th of June. The objective of the meetings is to bring about better coordination between the research programmes nationally and at European level and ultimately to build up a bigger critical mass of photonics funding which is needed in Europe. One of the tools the Mirror Group will use for this is the "ERA-NET Plus". The ERA-NET Plus allows the Member States and the EC to set up a common fund of money which can be used to support trans-national research on a chosen topic of strategic importance. Member States which are interested in participating in this action contribute 2/3rd of the funding and the remaining 1/3rd comes from the Commission.

This fund is used to finance trans-national research projects which are selected from a single call. The Mirror Group has reached an agreement that the topic of this ERA-NET Plus will be 'next generation broadband access'. The likely total size of this action will be about 30M€ funding, 20M€ coming from participating Member States and 10M€ from the Commission. The next steps for the Mirror Group are to work out the details of the call, agree on procedures and to start the process of allocating budget from the national programmes.

The call for projects is expected to be launched in January 2010. This is the first time that this type of joint funding will be done in the area of photonics and it is another indication of the greater recognition by the Member States of the importance of photonics. We hope that this action will be the first of a number of joint funding activities between the Member States and the European Commission. Further actions could address any topic of common interest.

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### **ICT 2009 - 2010 Workprogramme**

The next ICT workprogramme for 2009-2010 is currently being discussed by the Member States and is expected to be published in November 2008. The Photonics Unit has asked us to let our readers know that some descriptions of its content have already been published elsewhere but these are only speculative and could be misleading. The ICT workprogramme itself is the ONLY official document which describes the areas called for in 2009-2010.

The Photonics21 newsletter will bring you detailed information as soon as it becomes available and we will arrange an information session with the European Commission as part of the next annual meeting. The ICT work programme 2009-2010 will be first presented during the European Commission ICT Event 2008, 25-27 November, Lyon. First calls are expected in December 2008.

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### **European Photonics Cluster Meeting**

The first European Photonics Cluster Meeting was organized during Photonics Europe Congress in Strasbourg.

The meeting was considered a success, with 55 people from 28 clusters attending (more than was originally expected). There was lively participation from the attendees, not only through their presentations but also during the discussion and subsequent follow-up.

Most participants supported continuing such meetings in the future, which could be structured around selected topics of common interest to be proposed by the participating clusters. The follow-up of this first initiative has already been discussed in the way that the organizers (Rhenaphotonics Alsace and the European Commission Photonics Unit) would like to keep intact the “spirit of a photonics clusters community” that appeared this day.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.rhenaphotonics.fr/epcm.php>

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### **Survey on the Swedish photonics industry published**

The Swedish study was initiated by the Swedish Optical Society, Kista Photonics Research Centre (KPRC), Swedoptronics and Vinnova, feeling the need to make the Swedish photonics company landscape more transparent to policy makers and industry alike. Furthermore, the study attempts to estimate the impact of the photonics industry for Sweden including, number of companies present (in comparison with other European countries), employment structure and qualification of employees, qualification level of workforce needed by industry, turnover of industry (estimate), markets where Swedish companies are active, relevance of public funding for industry, R&D activities and budget.

The study was conducted by the EOS and the Kista Photonics Research Centre. A summary of the results can be downloaded at

[http://www.europticalociety.org/files/newsletter/report%20on%20Swedish%20photonics%20industry\\_introduction.p](http://www.europticalociety.org/files/newsletter/report%20on%20Swedish%20photonics%20industry_introduction.p)

If you are interested to receive the whole survey, please contact [bindig@myeos.org](mailto:bindig@myeos.org)

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### **Eurostars funding programme for SME's**

A Eurostars project is a European research and development project and addresses any technological area. It must have a civilian purpose and be aimed at the development of a new product, process or service. The Eurostars project must involve at least two participants (legal entities) from two different Eurostars



participating countries. In addition, the main participant must be a research-performing SME from one of these countries. The project must have a maximum duration of three years, and within two years of project completion, the product of the research should be ready for launch onto the market. The exception to this rule applies to biomedical or medical projects, where clinical trials must be started within two years of project completion.

The Eurostars Programme addresses SME's which invests 10% or more of its full-time equivalent or annual turnover in research and development activities.

Thirty-one countries currently participate in the Eurostars Programme. Even if your organisation is based outside of the member countries of Eurostars, you may still be eligible to participate in a Eurostars project in addition to the minimum of two participants established in two different Eurostars member countries. More information on possible participation in a Eurostars project can you find on the following website: <http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/>

The next deadline for electronic submission of applications is Friday 21 November 2008 at 1700 CET

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### **Upcoming Events on Photonics**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Concertation meeting - FP7 Photonics projects, September 2008, Barcelona**

This event is the second of this kind, and concentrates this time on the 27 new FP7 projects launched following ICT call 2. The meeting will be organised by ICFO - 'The Institute of Photonics Sciences' (Barcelona).

The objectives of this event are to:

- Contribute towards building a European Photonics community;
- Encourage the exchange of information and best-practice between projects;
- Engage the actors in a discussion on topics and challenges of common interest;
- Contribute to the reflection on the European Photonics policies and strategies;
- Provide feedback on the implementation of the Framework Program;
- Achieve synergy and cross-fertilisation among projects.

The event is open to any representative of the Photonics community.

For more information, please visit: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/photonics/concertation180908-ag\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/photonics/concertation180908-ag_en.html)

**Summer University Bordeaux: “Photonics and laser education within clusters - a global approach”**

The University of Bordeaux organizes in cooperation with "Route de Lasers" cluster in Aquitaine a European Summer University on the topics: "Photonics and laser education within clusters: a global approach" on the 18th and 19th of September.

Various renowned actors in the field of photonics and laser will introduce and discuss specific topics. This meeting will improve the educational offer at national level and hopes to built up some common actions at the European level as recently suggested in workgroup 7 (Education and Training) of Photonics 21.

This workshop will be held at the "Institut Laser Plasma" ILP building, on the LASIRIS industrial area, in the vicinity of the new laser Facility (Laser Megajoule).

For more information please visit:

[http://www.photonics21.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=172&Itemid=9&msg=Item+successfully+saved](http://www.photonics21.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=172&Itemid=9&msg=Item+successfully+saved)

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**21. - 25. September 2008 - ECOC 2008 in Brussels Expo, Belgium**

ECOC is the largest conference on optical communication in Europe. ECOC '08 will be the 34th edition, dignifying the stability and attractiveness of this event as one of the world's major events in the field, providing a forum for new results & developments in optical communication and networks. There will be several symposiums, workshops and tutorials alongside the conference nearly covering the whole topics on optical communication.

For more information: <http://www.ecoc2008.org/homepage.asp>

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**23. - 25. October 2008 EU-Russia Information and Brokerage Event in Moscow**

An ICT information and brokerage event will take place in Moscow on 23-25 October 2008. Information about Russian ICT research priorities will be given, as well as orientations about the EU's ICT Workprogramme in FP7 and how Russian organisations can already participate and receive funding.

If you are interested in participating please contact [christoph.helmrath@ec.europa.eu](mailto:christoph.helmrath@ec.europa.eu) until the end of July. He will send you further information as well as a questionnaire on which you will find more details.

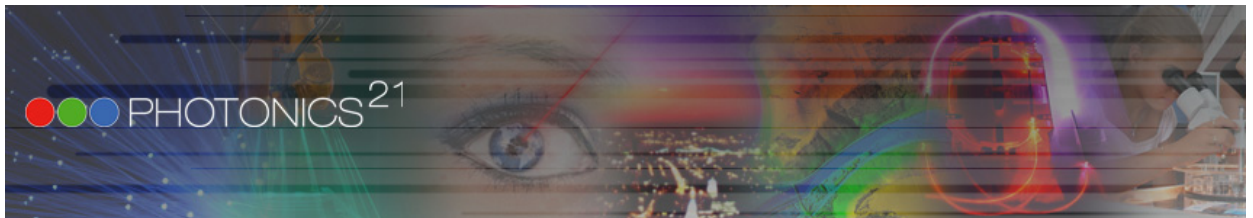
### **EOS Annual Meeting 2008**

29 September – 2 October 2008, Paris, France (co-located with the OPTO 2008 exhibition)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Annual Meeting of the EOS features 7 Topical Meetings and two Workshops.

The Advance Programme and Early-Bird Registration are now available at [www.myeos.org/EOSAM\\_2008](http://www.myeos.org/EOSAM_2008). Up to 700 attendees are expected to join EOSAM 2008 – early bird registration is available by 29<sup>th</sup> August!

[www.myeos.org/EOSAM\\_2008](http://www.myeos.org/EOSAM_2008) | [paris@myeos.org](mailto:paris@myeos.org)



### **New Photonics21 members**

Experts from following affiliations recently became Photonics21 members

Universita' di Roma La Sapienza, Universidad Autonoma de Occidente, Osram Opto Semiconductors GmbH, University of Twente, Tarbiat Modares University, University of Murcia, NEWI, CNRS-LPN, KUGLER GmbH, K.U.Leuven, Delft University of Technology, Technical University of Denmark, Moeller-Wedel GmbH, INEX UK, TSB Innovationsagentur Berlin GmbH, TESEO, Pixium, Univ. of Aveiro, Superlum Ireland/ATF, Advanced Fiber Products Ltd., ALPhA - Route des Lasers , Athens Information Technology

A warm welcome to all new members.

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### **Photonics21 Secretariat**

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