

Photonics for Europe

European industry shapes the European Research Area for the Photonics: Technology Platform Photonics21 has been launched successfully

Brussels, 2nd December 2005: Industry, research and policy makers join forces to further explore Photonics, a key strategic technology for markets in the 21st century. More than 200 experts from 16 European member states and 120 companies celebrated the launching event of the European Technology Platform *Photonics21* in Brussels. They will actively contribute to a European Research Area for Photonics.

“We need to join forces at the European level to make full use of the potential photonics offers for Europe’s economy. Only a coordinated approach enables us to further improve the competitive advantage Europe has today and will need more than ever in the future. We are confident that our close dialogue and cooperation with the European Commission and especially with Commissioner Viviane Reding will lead to a strong focus on Photonics in the upcoming 7th Framework Programme” explained Alexander von Witzleben, President of *Photonics21* and CEO of Jenoptik AG

The European Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Viviane Reding, officially opened the workshop *Photonics21* on the second day, where the participants laid the foundations for a common strategic research agenda.

“Photonics is one of the most important future industries for Europe. The benefit of photonics can only be fully exploited by international and European cooperation. *Photonics21* is a first very important step towards a European leadership. With the Technology Platforms the

European Commission establishes a close cooperation especially with industry to ensure that research and development contribute effectively to an improved competitiveness of Europe”, stated Commissioner Reding.

About Photonics21

The European Technology Platform (ETP) *Photonics21* has been launched as a result of previous consultations between high-level representatives of the European photonics industry, Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media, and the Commissioner for Research, Janez Potočnik. The ETP is based on the vision document “Photonics for the 21st Century”, which has been published in spring and which proposes a coordinated action plan at the European level to explore the nearly limitless future applications of light and to reap the expected benefits in terms of creating both jobs and wealth.

Through a shared vision between industrial and public actors, it will create the critical environment necessary for visionary and industrially relevant R&D in photonic components, systems and applications. The Platform undertakes to establish Europe as a leader in the development and deployment of Photonics in five industrial areas (Information and Communication, Lighting and Displays, Manufacturing, Life Science, and Security) as well as in Education and Training.

The strategic Research Agenda will include a coordinated approach for R&D investment at the European, the national and the regional levels. The European Commission and the stakeholders will work closely together to make sure that photonics plays an important role in the upcoming 7th Framework Programme. Photonics21 is headed by the chairmen of internationally leading companies like Jenoptik, Bookham, TRUMPF Lasertechnology, Carl Zeiss, Philips Lighting and SAGEM.

About European Technology Platforms (ETP)

Technology Platforms play a major role in mobilizing Europe's research, technological development and innovation efforts. They bring together the key stakeholders (industry, national and European public authorities, the academic community, the financial community, consumers and users) around a common vision for the development of the technologies concerned.

More information is available via www.photonics21.org.

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