

Photonics21 partnership not EC priority

Among other stakeholders, the BPC was represented in the Photonics21 stakeholder meeting in Brussels on the 27th of March. The good news is that European photonics are doing well, but connected to that the European Commission has decided not to fund the Photonics21 public private partnership much longer and let the free market rule this area of technology as well. Reduction of political support calls for tightening collaboration between BPC and closely Photonics Finland and PhotonicSweden clusters.

Plans for 2nd Quarter of 2019

1. Take part in the Optics and Photonics Days 2019, organized by Photonics Finland in Espoo.
2. General vote for the new BPC Chair is to be carried out.

New products or services



Fig 1. Femtolux green laser

1. Ekspla has released a new compact femtosecond fibre laser [FemtoLux green](#), which is aimed for both R&D use and industrial integration. Laser delivers 1.5 W at 515 nm or 3 W at 1030 nm of average power and up to 3 μ J femtosecond pulse energy.
2. Optogama has released new [catalog](#) about their products.
3. EKSMA Optics has introduced enhanced silver mirrors designed for applications with femtosecond lasers. These mirrors feature reflectivity of >98.5% and low group delay dispersion of <5 fs² in broadband 600 – 1100 nm region.

Job offers / vacancies

BPC leadership will change in summer 2019. BPC is looking for an active Latvian Chairman for the next 2 years.

News



Fig 2. Prof. Mourou giving a lecture at Photonics21 meeting in Brussels.

1. On 19th of March, the inauguration ceremony of Professor Gérard Mourou, a foreign member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, [took place](#) at the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. Professor Mourou was recently awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for the invention of chirped pulse amplification and he has long history collaborating with Prof. Algis Piskarskas' laboratory in Lithuania in the same topic.

BPC members were also among the many listeners of prof Mourou's inspiring presentation at the Photonics21 stakeholder meeting in Brussels at the end of March (Fig. 2).

2. The scientists at Tallinn University of Technology together with Chalmers University of Technology have [demonstrated](#) in a Nature article a long fibre optical transmission link (up to 4000km) using low-noise phase-sensitive amplifiers, reaching 5.6 times improvement compared to existing technologies. This breakthrough was achieved thanks to phase-sensitive optical amplifier, which has a remarkably low own noise level.

3. Altechna is [announces](#) the appointment of Mr. Antanas Lauritis to the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective 1st of February 2019. Antanas will continue to carry out Altechna's strategy, leading the company to further international growth and delivering on our promises to customers all over the world.

4. EKSMA group is set to invest into a new 5000 sq. m. manufacturing facility, which will be used for the expansion of R&D and production capabilities of EKSMA Optics laser optical components. The new R&D and production center should start operations in 2021.