

Baltic Photonics Prize gets more concrete

The 2019 BPC annual meeting decided to create a prize for optics/photronics/engineering students, with the main aim being to increase visibility of the photronics industry and science among the next generation of scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, leaders etc.

More concretely it was been decided that the Baltic Photonics Prizes (each 300€) will be given out in 2020 in the “OpenReadings” conference and “Developments in Optics and Communications” conference. The postponement of these conferences has not invalidated these decisions. The organizing committees of selected conferences will be asked extend their evaluation processes to include this prize among the other ones given out during the conference, as well as to include the Baltic Photonics Cluster among the sponsors of the conference and to use the logo of BPC in all promotional materials.

The best oral presentation about a photronics-related topic shall receive the prize according to the organizers’ committee decision and the subject of the research has to be connected to photronics.

Plans for Q2&Q3 2020

1. Audit the funds of the cluster.
2. Organize the Baltic Photonics Prize for BioPhotonics Riga [conference](#) in August 2020.

New products or services

1. Eksma Optics now offers [new](#) compact laser power attenuators and also a new grade of anti-reflection coating for nonlinear LBO crystals.

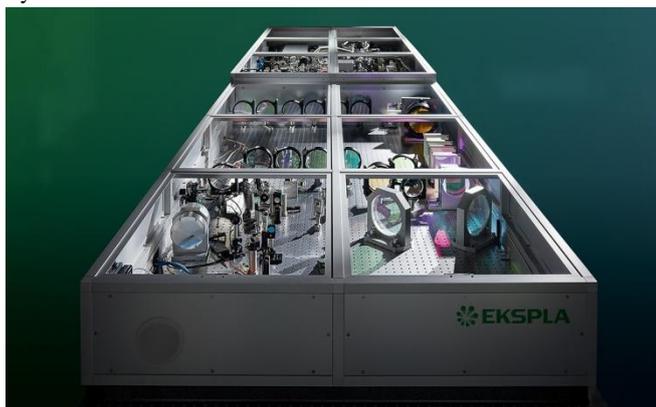


Fig 1. UltraFlux FF/FT 500. Image credit: Ekpla.

2. Ekspla now [offers](#) their 2TW OPCPA laser „UltraFlux FF/FT 5000” for various applications. Ekspla has also [added](#) concrete publication lists to application areas of their lasers. Thirdly, Ekspla [announces](#) a fast wavelength switching option for their lasers.

3. EKSMA Optics has extended their manufacturing capabilities of precision CNC grinding and polishing of [aspherical lenses](#). Aspheres with figure error (P-V) down to $\pm 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ and surface form deviation (RMS) down to $\leq 0.3 \mu\text{m}$ can now be produced under your request.

News

1. BPC member Optogama is announced as one of Europe’s fastest-growing companies. On March 2, Financial Times shared an annual list of 1000 Europe’s Fastest-Growing Companies 2020. Optogama was listed in 668 place with an absolute growth rate – 250,2%.
2. Optogama has published a [video](#) about their division 4Lasers.
3. EuroLCDs had an event on the 10th of December 2019 to celebrate Physical Vapor deposition (PVD) coating technology line opening.
4. SciTech Europa has [published](#) an e-book about the Institute of Solid State Physics, University of Latvia and their project CAMART².
5. ISP Optics Latvia has got a [renewed](#) 5 million USD contract for infrared optical lens elements. Also, its sister company ISP Optics Orlando now offers Diamond Like Carbon [deposition](#) service.
6. Compounds Semiconductor Week [conference](#) , Functional Materials and Nanotechnologies 2020 [conference](#) as well as Photonics Finland’s [Optics and Photonics Days 2020](#) are postponed.
7. Ekspla [announces](#) that from now on they buy only renewable energy to power their activities.
8. Altechna Coatings [gets started](#) with a new CEO Ingrida Navickienė.



9. The 3rd BioPhotonics Riga [conference](#) is held from 24th to 26th of August.