

Baltic Photonics Cluster is 10 years old

The BPC was founded in April 2011, with the objective of facilitation of photonics research and industrial activities in Baltic countries. It was envisioned that BPC would coordinate relationships with European Photonics Industry Consortium (EPIC), European Technology Platforms, European Industrial companies, as well as with local, national, European and international organizations. Additionally, BPC was tasked in promoting photonics through related basic research, applied research and development.



In the 10 years since the founding of the cluster, the political situation has somewhat changed – the EU no longer explicitly pushes photonics as one of the key enabling technologies and topic for public private partnership. Additionally, EPIC activity has lifted off and is now stronger and more popular than ever before (at least before covid hit), while the Lithuanian laser ecosystem is thriving and photonics is proposed as one of 5 “national key ecosystem” in Latvia. This has reduced the need for BPC in its current form. BPC will celebrate 10-year anniversary with a webinar for the members in the 30th of April, where the future plans for BPC will be taken in focus.

New products or services

1. Ekspla has [announced](#) that they will construct a new 15TW peak power laser system called SYLOS3 for the ELI-ALPS (Extreme Light Infrastructure Attosecond Light Pulse Source).
2. Ekspla also has a new tunable 210nm to 2300nm picosecond laser [available](#).

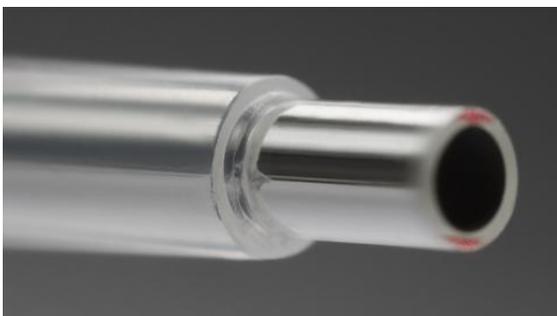


Figure 1. New fibers for CO₂ laser by LGO.

3. LightGuideOptics has developed new [fibers](#) for CO₂ laser, with wavelength 10.6 microns. Applications include surgical, asthetics, ETN and many more.
4. LGO has also developed new fibers with carbon coating and loaded with hydrogen. These fibers are useful where solarization and radiation resistance is needed.

5. Optogama has unveiled their new 2021 product [catalogue](#).
6. Eksma Optics has developed their [pulse picker](#) further - femtosecond pulses can be picked from the train at up to 1 MHz rate using pulse picker UP2.
7. Eksma Optics announces the [construction](#) of a new 7300 m² building in Vilnius, Lithuania. By the end of 2021, it will accommodate advanced optical components manufacturing facilities and EKSMA Optics headquarters.
8. Custom spherical optics from Eksma Optics can now be ordered quickly. Joining the forces of in-house CNC precision polishing and thin film coating facilities allows Eksma Optics to offer great flexibility in the production of [custom optical lenses](#).
9. Workshop of Photonics (legal name “Altechna R&D”) [announces](#) that they will develop microfluidic cuvettes to help fight against the COVID-19.



Figure 2. Workshop of Photonics sapphire cutting workstation FemtoGLASS with samples of cut glass.

10. Workshop of Photonics has also introduced [fully integrated services](#) from feasibility and prototyping to actual solutions – contract manufacturing services and laser workstations development. The latest one, ultra-precise and high-speed femtosecond laser workstation for cutting glass & sapphire [FemtoGLASS](#), outperforming all other conventional glass processing methods.

Other news

1. The Federation of Estonian Engineering Industry is inviting BPC members to take part of the Modern Materials and Manufacturing [conference](#) (27.-29. April 2021, web-based), where business-to-business meetings can also be organized.
2. Baltic Photonics Cluster invites You to be part of activities related to the [day of light 2021](#) on the 16th of May.



International
Day of Light

16 May