BPC Newsletter

Q1 of 2016

Activities inside BPC

1. The collection of the annual fee has been postponed until a better definition for the expectations from the cluster has been formed. A survey among members has been opened to help redefine the mission.

2. In February the annual event of Photonics West was held in the USA. Tomas Jankauskas from Altechna represented the BPC in the cluster reception at this PW2016 SPIE event. Mr. Jankauskas stated that he was very impressed to see so much activity in the event. The regional clusters have not been very active and only now they are making themselves heard. The Altechna representative also felt that with a bit of a push the BPC could make the Baltic photonics sector known to the world and be more active in the cluster community.

Altechna's booth at Photonics West '16.

3. The Photonics21 annual meeting was held in Brussels on the first days of March. Sergey Babichenko from LDI Innovation took part in event. First negotiations were held with Swedish and Finnish Photonics Cluster representatives to plan a joint effort of these 3 clusters in the coming years. The main idea could be to commercialize more good photonics ideas in the region. Photonics Finland has invited BPC representatives to take part in their annual event in May 2016 to discuss the idea a bit further.

4. The plans to join a proposal for the 2016 H2020 Photonics Coordination and Support activities call have not been successful, but the Baltics are nevertheless represented through LITEK. BPC will focus on an equivalent call in 2017 with some Nordic partners.

Plans for Q2 2016

1. Create a catalog of Baltic expertise in photonics. Ott Rebane is collecting information about relevant Estonian stakeholders, Vidvuds Beldavs is collecting the same info about Latvia and Šarūnas Vaškelis collects the information for Lithuania. This can be used to facilitate direct contacts to any interested party.
2. A skype meeting or a visit to a BPC member is planned into Q2 of 2016.
3. BPC representative will very likely take part in the Photonics Finland event in Tampere in May 2016. A joint booth hasn't been planned for that.

Partner search

1. EuroLCDs is succesfully participating already in the second year in a H2020 project "INSPIRED" as partner for printing conductive nanoparticles. Within first year, LCD prototypes were ink jet printed and laser sintered busbars from nanocopper particles have been demonstrated.

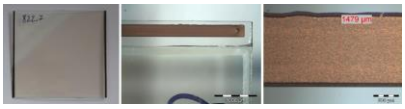

Photo of results from project INSPIRED.

EuroLCDs is looking for potential partners for future H2020 projects, where their experience, cleanroom or thin film (LCD) production line, can benefit others. While EuroLCDs own direction is scaling up applications, like smart windows or light shutters, they are also making small scale and size batches of prototypes for our partners.
2. The Photonics Club in Tartu University is looking for small R&D problems from the industry. The aim is to get real-life photonics problems to university students who are interested in photonics and are looking for a challenge and relevant experience. The result would be given back to the company and the "service" is free of charge.
3. Eventech has got their first ESA support project started February 1st. Eventech is looking for potential experts in LIDAR and space communications applications, who could help to establish product requirements/specifications and introduce it later in the market.

Project proposals

1. The Institute of Solid State Physics of University of Latvia is looking to consolidate a consortium for "Photonics enabled MakerLabs" and probably could accumulate some more participants. If there are some SME or public research institutions within BPC with interest to join such consortium, please contact Martins Rutkis. The deadline for the call is on the 12th of April.

New products or services

1. Eksma Optics now provides precision grade axicons for quick delivery.
2. Altechna R&D division and Corning Inc started cooperation on new glass processing technologies.
3. Ekspla has won 2 tenders from Extreme Light Infrastructure to create the world's most powerful 10 petawatt class laser and a 4 TW femtosecond laser. Due to strong laser sector in the country, it is now being proposed that the 4th ELI node could be built in Lithuania.

Building of Sylos1 laser system for ELI-ALPS (Hungary).

Other opportunities

1. Estonia-Latvia programme is seeking for project proposals until the 22nd of April. Cooperation ideas that focus on entrepreneurship, tourism, water management, environmental awareness, labour commuters, etc are welcome.
2. EPIC invites to their 2nd European Photonics Venture Forum on the 2nd and 3rd of June in Eindhoven, Netherlands. Target audience could be companies seeking funding from venture capitalists or networking with venture capitalists from one side and investors looking for opportunities in the field of photonics on the other side. This Forum is held in association with the Netherlands Photonics Event in Veldhoven on the 1st and 2nd of June 2016.