BPC Newsletter

Q4 2015

BPC meeting 12.11.2015

The annual meeting of the Baltic Photonics Cluster was held in Vilnius on the 12th of November 2015. The meeting included a comprehensive tour around the Sunrise Valley Technology and Innovation Center (area around Ekspla and Center for Physical Sciences and Technology). The tour showed to the meeting participants the optics-manufacturing, coating, material processing, laser-manufacturing etc abilities of local Lithuanian companies and institutes. Many of the capabilities in this science (or laser) park are actually open-access and therefore available to all BPC members. The tour also revealed that the Lithuanian laser industry is shifting from only laser manufacturing to integrating the lasers in various devices – e.g. in laser micro-structuring machines.

No big decisions were made during the meeting. The main focus was on finding good ideas, how the BPC could be more useful for its members and for the local communities. But in addition to that, presentations were made about the current health of BPC and recent developments, market expectations of the members. Also, the Photonics Valley experience and photonics-realted project writing were presented in the meeting.

As a direct result of the meeting a cooperation agreement between BPC and LITEK technology cluster was signed.

Plans for 1st Quarter of 2016

1. Photonics West meeting is on the 15th of February. A representative of BPC will take part of the meeting.
2. A Skype meeting or a visit to a BPC member is planned into Q1 or Q2 of 2016.
3. The mission of the BPC has to be redefined to suit the needs of our members and the community better. A survey among members will be carried out in Q1 to find out the expectations of BPC members from the organization.

Photograph from the annual meeting 2015.

Expectations from the BPC

As the mission of BPC needs a better definition, the cluster will start a questionnaire among its members regarding the expectations from the organization. The following proposals were already named:

1) The BPC could be used by the members (more than 1 at a time) to write and manage projects, where one requirement is that a cluster or a non-commercial entity must be a partner.
2) The BPC could provide match-making services to any interested entity, who is interested in photonics in the Baltics. The service would be supported by the interested BPC member who is the potential match (in a concrete case) to the interested entity by prioritizing the negotiations with the interested entity.
3) A quarterly newsletter to inform BPC members and the general public about the ongoing activities of the members as well as their partnering requirements, their current problems and recent news (products, services, capabilities, etc).
4) The members could visit other members by a formal BPC delegation. This would allow direct exchange or ideas and common problems.

Project proposals

1. The project APPOLO coordinator Gediminas Račiukaitis (FTMC) is looking into Estonia to see who could be the regional hub of excellence in laser technologies.
2. The call for BONUS project: Blue Baltic needs industrial partners for some topics. The registration date is 9th of February and all project consortia have to include partners from at least 3 different countries around the Baltic sea region.

New products or services

1. Eksma Optics now provides custom design aspheric lenses. Their new CNC grinding and polishing facility can manufacture lenses according to drawings and specifications.
Eksma Optics also recently announced new high extinction ratio thin film polarizers.
2. Sidrabe announces that newly developed R&D cluster tool for various deposition technology works now.
3. EKSPLA announced new UltraFlux series tunable wavelength femtosecond laser system based on OPCPA (optical parametric chirped pulse amplification) technology.
4. Altechna announces that they now provide free technical consultations on the use of various crystals.
5. Baltic Scientific Instruments announces that they now have high purity germanium detector available with in-built Stirling cooling, they call it „MONOLITH".
6. ISP Optics corporation, working with Joe Ford (University of Southern California) and Eric Tremblay (EPFL Switzerland), have produced an intracular contact lens to improve the sight of people with age-related macular degeneration, the third leading cause of blindness globally.

Job offers / vacancies

1. EuroLCDs has expressed continuing interest in recruiting talented young people.
2. Universities will be looking for a practice base for their students in the spring semester.