SPIE—The International Society for Optical Engineering—Announces Support for EU’s Photonics21 R&D Platform

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Bellingham, WA & Cardiff, UK (PRWEB) January 4, 2006 -- SPIE—The International Society for Optical Engineering—announces its support for the Photonics21 European Technology Platform to mobilize research, technology development and innovation. Associated workshops are scheduled at Photonics Europe, in Strasbourg, France, from April 3-7, 2006. SPIE leadership and members are assisting in the formation and implementation of this strategic agenda for photonics research and development covering five industrial markets, as well as education and training.

Through SPIE Europe (based in Cardiff, UK), the Society has been an active participant in meetings leading up to the adoption of Photonics21, including the most recent in Brussels, held in early December, where the platform was officially launched.

The Photonics21 technology platform is a strategic vision document for photonics in the upcoming Seventh Framework Program (FP7), the European Union’s main instrument for the funding of research in Europe. This effort coordinates R&D investment at the European, the national and the regional levels. Under Photonics21, representatives from academia, research labs, and major industries in Europe have collaborated to plan the future of European photonics research and commercialization.

SPIE 2005 President Malgorzata Kujawinska (Warsaw University of Technology, Poland) is a member of the Executive Board of Photonics21. The larger Board of Stakeholders also includes several participants with SPIE affiliations, including Hugo Thienpont (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, and SPIE Board of Directors) and Eugene Arthurs (SPIE Executive Director), as well as several other SPIE members contributing optics and photonics expertise.

“This represents unprecedented cooperation among countries with a market roughly comparable to that of the United States,” said Arthurs. “Europeans hold technical leadership in many areas of photonics, lighting being one example. Photonics21 is an important effort and we will continue assisting its implementation.”

To inform potential participants and support the research collaboration embodied in Photonics21, SPIE Europe is organizing two related workshops at the Photonics Europe symposium, April 3-7 in Strasbourg, France. On Tuesday, April 4, the “OPERA Forum on FP-7 and the Technology Platform” will bring together presentations and discussions covering the following components of Photonics21 R&D effort:

* Communications and Information
* Lighting and Displays
* Laser-assisted Manufacturing and Machine Vision
* Life Sciences and Health
* Metrology and Sensors
* Design and Manufacturing of Components
* Education for Research and Training in Photonics.
On Friday, April 7, some of the Framework 6 Programme-approved projects will hold network meetings. These include MONA, PHOREMOST, NEMO, and OPERA. These groups will also be represented with displays in the European Photonics Innovation Village in the exhibition hall at Photonics Europe, open from April 4-6, 2006. More details are available at [www.spie.org/events/europe](http://www.spie.org/events/europe).

“Inclusion of Photonics21 as part of FP7 signals recognition of photonics as the next big R&D effort in the European Union, with great opportunities for industrial expansion, job growth and global competitiveness,” said Karin Burger, manager of SPIE Europe. “Investment in photonics research and development will increase substantially, in a more coordinated, goal-driven approach. All stakeholders involved understand the need to work together with a common vision and action plan.”

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