

## Community

# Conference Notes

## SPIE Optifab (review)

Rochester, NY, USA, 14–17 October 2013

Once again, SPIE Optifab, the largest optical fabrication event in North America, returned to Rochester, New York, with a bigger exhibition than in recent years and technical updates and training on innovative technologies with strong commercial potential. Optifab is sponsored by SPIE, the International Society for Optics and Photonics, and APOMA, the American Precision Optics Manufacturers Association. One thousand six hundred and fifty-five experts registered for the event, slightly more the last SPIE Optifab in 2011, with the growth showing in exhibition visitors.

The 165 exhibiting companies included key industry suppliers such as Mahr Federal, TRIOPTICS, Universal Photonics, Xonox Technology and Zygo Corporation, with displays and demonstrations of optical and optomechanical components, materials, systems and devices, laser system components, optical test and metrology systems, thin-film coatings and more. Large equipment

manufacturers had a major presence on the exhibit floor as well, with companies including OptoTech Optical Machinery, Schneider Optical Machines, QED Technologies, OptiPro Systems and Satisloh North America.

According to SPIE, company representatives were very enthusiastic about the number and quality of visitors, and also about the innovative ideas being discussed. A German diamond turning retrofit company representative said: “We like the optical community here – we have found interest in our product, and new customers”.

Approximately 100 technical talks covered classical and advanced optical manufacturing technologies, on topics such as grinding and polishing, optical fabrication of freeform surfaces, metrology, optical materials, cleaning and coating, optical design, optical engineering, meter-class optics and molded optics. A highlight among the presentations was the plenary talk by Steven Sasson, who is retired from Eastman Kodak, on “Disruptive innovation: the story of the first digital camera”.

Training opportunities included 12 professional development courses on optical fabrication and manufacturing, aspheric optics, metrology, optomechanics, thin films



**Figure 1** SPIE-Optifab: Large equipment on the floor and many product demos attracted the attention of optics experts.

and other topics. New this year were courses on subcontracting custom optics, and optical materials, fabrication and testing for the optical engineer.

The next Optifab will be held in Rochester, NY, USA in 2015. SPIE will post a respective call in December of 2014.

<http://spie.org/x6567.xml>

## SPIE Photonics West (preview)

San Francisco, CA, USA, 1–6 February 2014

Photonics West has established itself as the largest and most influential event for the laser and photonics community in North America with 20,000 attendees, two exhibitions, 1300 exhibiting companies and countless networking opportunities. The topics range from biophotonics, biomedical optics and translational research to industrial lasers, optoelectronics, microfabrication, optical MEMS, and more.

Here are a few facts and figures: Exhibitions and conferences will be held again in The Moscone Center, San Francisco, CA, USA. Registration fees increase after 17 January 2014, housing service runs until 18 December 2013. The organizers announced 4600 papers, 17 plenary and hot topic presentations, 40 special events, 70 courses and, of course, the two exhibitions BiOS Expo (1–2 February) and Photonics West (4–6 February).

### Selected short courses

Photonics West is a great place to meet and talk with people. But if you go there to learn something from bright and experienced people, then you should not miss the short courses. You may choose from 70 different courses and workshops. New courses are available on imaging optics, neurophotonics, micro-optics, IR instrument design, and more. But the main reason to mention the courses is the list of teachers: Most instructors have made substantial contribution or are well-respected leaders in their field. So it is a rare chance to get educated by the very best experts. Here are a few picks from the advance program:

- Basic Optics for Engineers; Glenn D. Boreman, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte (US); Monday 3 February 2014 8:30 AM–5:30 PM
- Applying Freeform Optical Surfaces in Imaging Optics; Jannick P. Rolland, University of Rochester (US); Kevin P. Rolland-Thompson, Synopsys, Inc. (US); Sunday 2 February 2014 8:30 AM–5:30 PM
- Design of Efficient Illumination Systems; William J. Cassarly, Synopsys, Inc. (US); 4 February 2014, 8:30 AM–12:30 PM
- Thin Film Optical Coatings; H. Angus Macleod, Thin Film Center, Inc. (US); Monday 3 February 2014 8:30 AM–5:30 PM
- Polarized Light: What Your College Instructor Forgot to Tell You; Robert A. Fisher, RA Fisher Associates, LLC (US); Tuesday 4 February 2014 8:30 AM–5:30 PM
- Finite Element Analysis of Optics; Keith B. Doyle, MIT Lincoln Lab. (US); Victor L. Genberg, Sigmadyne, Inc. (US); Tuesday 4 February 2014 8:30 AM–5:30 PM
- Modern Optical Testing ; James C. Wyant, The University of Arizona (US); Wednesday 5 February 2014 1:30 PM–5:30 PM
- Resonator Design for Solid State Lasers; Ruediger Paschotta, RP Photonics Consulting GmbH (Germany); Sunday 2 February 2014 8:30 AM–5:30 PM
- Coherent Mid-Infrared Sources and Applications; Konstantin L. Vodopyanov, Stanford University (US); Sunday 2 February 2014 1:30 PM–5:30 PM
- Introduction to Ultrafast Optics; Rick P. Trebino, Georgia Institute of Technology (US); Tuesday 4 February 2014 1:30 PM–5:30 PM

Most often the courses mentioned here are on an advanced level, except the first one by Glenn Boreman. The full program with more details is available at <http://spie.org/photonics-west.xml>.