

Community

EOS NEWS: Report from the World of Photonics Congress 2015

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The bi-annual World of Photonics Congress (WPC) in Munich, June 22–25, 2015, is over. As always, the event was huge. In the scientific conferences over 5000 participants and 2500 lecturers. In the LASER World of PHOTONICS exhibition about 1130 exhibitors. It is one of the largest, if not the largest Photonics event in the world.

Regarding the European Optical Society (EOS), we organized four topical meetings (TOMs) at the WPC: the traditional EOS TOMs EOSMTOC (4th EOS Conference on Manufacturing and Testing of Optical Components) and EOSOF (3rd EOS Conference on Optofluidics), and two new TOMs, namely, Optomechanical Engineering (EOSOME) and Light Engineering (EOSLE).

In addition to the TOMs, during the WPC we held an Executive Committee and a Board meetings, and our Annual General Assembly as well as meetings of our Industrial and Scientific Advisory Committees, and JEOS:RP Editorial Board and Editorial Team. The discussions in all the meetings were lively and enthusiastic. It is clear that our European Optics and Photonics Community is eager to help the EOS in becoming a major player in organizing optics and photonics events in Europe, and also on improving the production of the EOS Journal JEOS:RP.

As for the EOS, the highlight of the WPC was the award ceremony, in which the two new EOS awards related to the EC funded (Horizon2020) project LIGHT2015 were presented:

- **A Young Photonics Entrepreneur Award** to honor an individual who has made outstanding technical and/or innovative contributions to the photonics industry
- **A Young Women in Photonics Award** to honor a young female scientist who has made outstanding contributions to optics

These prestigious awards, with a prize amount of 2500 EUR, were presented during the WPC's Plenary Award ceremony. The winner of the **Young Photonics Entrepreneur Award** is Dr. Garrett Cole 'for the development of a game-changing low-noise optical coating process that enables the integration of single-crystal semiconductor films onto arbitrary optical substrates, and for successful entrepreneurship through subsequently founding the high-tech start-up company Crystalline Mirror Solutions GmbH'. In his vote of thanks (Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/6lry-haUuho>) Dr. Cole brought up the importance of free basic research and its, sometimes unexpected but important, links to industry: 'This company is completely an example of fundamental research that developed a totally unexpected spinoff... I think a lot of times, this happens in the US and also in Europe, that research tends to get pushed into this milestone driven direction, that you need to show something [before you actually do it]. I think this is a nice example of starting with something completely fundamental and spinning off a completely unexpected applied technology.'

As for the **Young Women in Photonics Award**, we received a large number of outstanding applications and decided to give two awards, one in the Fundamentals category and the other in the Applied/Engineering category. The award winners are Dr. Na Liu (University of Stuttgart) 'for her seminal contribution to nanophotonics and nanoplasmonics' and Dr. Nathalie Vermeulen (Vrije Universiteit, Brussel) 'for introducing a disruptive model for the nonlinear process of Coherent Anti-Stokes Raman Scattering and employing it to conceptualize a novel cooling technique for Raman lasers'. In addition, we decided to give two special recognition awards. As Prof. John Dudley, a member of the award committee, commented during the selection process: 'I would like to give an award to all of these candidates'. The special recognition awards were given to Dr. Francesca Calegari (National Research Council of Italy) and to Dr. Camille-Sophie Bres (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne).

EOS and its Office wish everyone a relaxing summer!

Best regards,

Jyrki Saarinen

EOS Executive Director



Dr. Garrett Cole, *the winner of the Light 2015 Young Photonics Entrepreneur Award*, giving a speech at the EOS award Ceremony.
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