

Community

News

<https://doi.org/10.1515/aot-2020-0063>

Nobel laureates warn against proposed cuts to EU science budget

Three of the world's most eminent scientists have criticized the European Commission's intention to drastically cut photonics funding over the next 7 years. Digital innovation, which drives economic growth and creates jobs all across Europe, will be at risk if the budget to fund the enabling technologies in photonics is slashed.

In a stark warning, the Nobel Prize winners say cutting investment in photonics – which is essential for powering high critical sectors such as health, aerospace, and transport – will be disastrous for Europe's technological goals.

In an open letter to the European Commission, the Nobel laureates have heavily criticized the decision to make a 30% reduction in funding support by European Commission for a future Photonics Partnership 2021–2027 in Horizon Europe, the successor to the current Horizon 2020 program.

The letter – addressed to Vice President Commissioner Vestager, Commissioner Breton, Commissioner Gabriel, and the College of European Commissioners – says the cuts will seriously compromise initiatives that are strategically important to ensure Europe's competitiveness.

Without adequate funding, the laureates who include Professor Gérard Albert Mourou, Professor Stefan W. Hell, and Professor Theodor W. Hänsch – all Nobel Prize winners for their work in the field of photonic sciences – warn the four overarching European Union objectives will be seriously scuppered.

“There can be no Europe fit for a Digital Age, no full digital sovereignty and no ultra-secure sovereign quantum computing enabled cybersecurity without photonics technologies” say the Nobel Prize winners in physics and chemistry.

Photonics technologies are recognized as essential to support and advance four overarching European Union objectives: the digital transformation of Europe industry; achieving the European Green deal and a sustainable EU future; the establishment of a future sovereign and resilient European digital infrastructure; and strengthening strategic value chains across key sectors.

Not consistent

Condemning the move as “not consistent with the planned support for other key digital partnerships,” the Nobel laureates highlight the proposed figure would represent only 35% of the photonics industry requested budget for 2021–2027. The current figure proposed by the Commission for a new Photonics Public Private Partnership (PPP) is in the range of €500 million. If confirmed, this represents a cut of over 30% on the already previous minimal budget of €700 million 2014–2020.

While the current Photonics PPP was funded to the sum of €700 million over 7 years – already one of the smallest budgets for a key digital technology PPP over the period 2014–2020 – the allocated budget for the Microelectronics PPP was €2.5 billion over the same period.

The recent European Commission industry strategy “A New Industrial Strategy for Europe” clearly recognized photonics technologies as a key enabling technology for the digital transformation of European industry stating, “The EU will support the development of key enabling technologies that are strategically important for Europe's industrial future ... including Photonics.”

The European Investment Bank in a separate communication identified photonics as one of the two key digital deep technologies that will provide the secure, sovereign, and resilient digital infrastructure necessary for Europe.

Equally, photonics is now considered as one of the “digital technologies critical for attaining the sustainability goals of the European Green Deal,” through revolutionizing energy generation and energy conservation, along with distance monitoring the effects of both, on the environment and climate.

The signatories are:

Professor Gérard Albert Mourou, a Physics Nobel Prize winner for the invention of “chirped pulse amplification,” a technique used to create ultrashort-pulse, very high-intensity petawatt laser pulses.

Professor Stefan W. Hell, who developed a method in which one light pulse causes fluorescent molecules to glow, while another causes all molecules except those in a very narrow area to become dark.

Professor Theodor W. Hänsch, whose work on the “optical frequency comb” technique won him, along with John L. Hall and Roy J. Glauber, a joint Nobel Prize.

Community

EOS News

New EOS fellows and board members named

During the EOSAM 2020 conference week, the European Optical Society also announced the newly elected EOS Board members, the winner of the EOS Prize 2020, and the new EOS Fellows.

3 new EOS fellows elected

The EOS Fellowships were announced for the cohort 2019/2020. EOS Fellowship is a distinguished, honorary membership status of the EOS. There were eight nominations and three fellows were elected for the rank of fellowship:

- Graham Reed, Professor at the University of Southampton
- Guy Millot, Professor at the University of Bourgogne
- Laurent Vivien, Director of Research at the Institute Center of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, CNRS

EOS warmly congratulates the new EOS Fellows and thanks them for the contributions for the community and the society.

From now on, the fellowships will be announced annually, and the nominations will be opened at the end of 2020. The next Fellows will be celebrated at the EOSAM conference in Paris, 6–10 September 2021.

Best paper award 2020

The EOS Prize is awarded for the best paper published in the open access online journal of the EOS (JEOS:RP) <https://jeos.springeropen.com/>. In 2020, the EOS Prize goes to the paper titled “*Tapered Photonics Crystal fibers coated with ultra-thin films for highly sensitive bio-chemical sensing*” by Vladimir P. Minkovitch from Guanajuato University, Mexico, and Alexander B. Sotsky from Mogilev State University, Mogilev, Belarus. The winners will receive

diplomas and honorarium included in this award. Warm congratulations for the winners!

Results of the EOS board elections

The EOS Board Election was again held in 2020, with each member having a possibility to nominate a candidate and finally voting for the listed candidates. The newly elected members of the EOS Board are:

- Roelene Botha (CH)
- Emiliano Descrovi (NO)
- María Teresa Flores (ES)
- Myriam Zerrad (FR)

EOS happily welcomes these new members and thanks the members stepping down from the Board: Andreas Etmeyer, Ivo Rendina, and Paul Urbach. The contributions of these people have been integral for the society, and hopefully the collaboration will continue also in the future.

Looking back and forward

All in all, the online EOSAM conference was a new experience for not only the EOS office staff but also many of our attendees. The year 2020 has certainly been challenging for all, but it was nice to see the community coming together online to present and view the latest research in the field. It was a great pleasure to provide a platform for presenting research in times when conferences in person cannot be held.

We wish to warmly thank all our attendees, speakers, chairs, program committee members, sponsors, the EOS Partner societies, the Portuguese Society for Optics and Photonics (SPOF), and the local support in Porto for creating the event under these special circumstances.

We hope to see you all in person in Paris, at the international EOSAM conference on 6–10 September 2021!

Best wishes for a successful and healthy New Year – Elina Koistinen, EOS Executive Director

<https://www.europtics.org/events/eos/eosam2021.html>

Community

Conference Calendar

The calendar has been reviewed on 1st November. Due to further regulations in response to the worldwide pandemic, dates or locations may vary from this list.

Nevertheless, the pandemic may offer new opportunities as well. Please visit the website of a conference you missed. Some offer on-demand viewing of the meeting. And most often, it is for free!

December

SPIE Astronomical Telescopes + Instrumentation

Digital Forum

14–18 December 2020

<https://spie.org/x127041.xml>

2021

February

SPIE Medical Imaging

San Diego, CA, USA

14–18 February 2021

www.spie.org/mi

SPIE Advanced Lithography

San Jose, CA, USA

21–25 February 2021

www.spie.org/al

March

SPIE Photonics West

San Francisco, CA, USA

6–11 March 2021

www.spie.org/pw

SPIE AR | VR | MR

San Francisco, CA, USA

7–9 March 2021

<https://spie.org/x124250.xml>

Optical Fiber communication

San Francisco, CA, USA

28 March–1 April 2021

www.ofcconference.org

April

OSA Biophotonics Congress

Vancouver, BC, Canada

12–15 April 2021

www.osa.org/en-us/meetings/osa_meetings/osa_biophotonics_congress/

SPIE Defense + Commercial Sensing

Orlando, FL, USA

11–15 April 2021

www.spie.org/dcs

SPIE Optics + Optoelectronics

Prague, Czech Republic

19–22 April 2021

www.spie.org/oo

May

CLEO 2021

San Jose, CA, USA

9–14 May 2021

www.cleoconference.org

DGao Tagung

Bremen, Germany

25–29 May 2021

www.dgao.de

June

LASER World of Photonics

Munich, Germany

21–24 June 2021

www.laser.de

World of Photonics Congress

Munich, Germany

20–24 June 2021

www.photonics-congress.com/en/

SPIE Conferences @WoP Congress

Biomedical Optics

Digital Optical Technologies

Optical Metrology

Munich, Germany

20–24 June 2021

<https://spie.org/conferences-and-exhibitions>

OSA Optical Design and Fabrication Congress

Providence, Rhode Island, USA

27 June–1 July 2021

www.osa.org/en-us/meetings/osa_meetings/optical_design_and_fabrication/

September

EOS Annual Meeting

Paris, France

6–10 September 2021

www.europeanoptics.org/events/eos/eosam2021.html

October**VISION**

Stuttgart, Germany

5–7 October 2021

www.messe-stuttgart.de/vision/

Frontiers in Optics: the 105th OSA Annual Laser Science Conference

Washington, DC, USA

10–14 October 2021

www.osa.org/en-us/meetings/global_calendar/events/frontiers_in_optics_the_105th_osa_annual_meeting_a/

SPIE Optifab

Rochester, NY, USA

18–21 October 2021

<https://spie.org/x125984.xml>

2022**Optical Fiber communication**

San Diego, CA, USA

6–10 March 2022

www.ofcconference.org

AKL'22

Aachen, Germany

4–6 May 2022

www.lasercongress.org

CLEO

San Jose, CA, USA

15–20 May 2022

www.cleoconference.org

DGaO Tagung

Gent, Belgium

7–10 June 2022

www.dgao.de

LASYS

Stuttgart, Germany

21–23 June 2022

www.messe-stuttgart.de/lasys/