



News from the NPI

Thursday, July 30, 2020



MONTANA PHOTONICS INDUSTRY ALLIANCE HOSTS SEN. STEVE DAINES

The [Montana Photonics Industry Alliance](#) (MPIA) recently [hosted Senator Steve Daines \(R-Mont.\)](#) for an in-person meeting in Bozeman, Montana. Participants discussed the positive economic impact of the optics and photonics industry in the state and the country as a whole. Participating companies included Ascent Vision, Wavelength Electronics, FLIR Systems/Scientific Materials, Montana Instruments, S2 Corporation, and Elemental Scientific Lasers.

Trenton Berg, President of the MPIA, thanked Senator Daines for his leadership and discussed how Montana has become a critical photonics hub. He said, "the greatest asset of the Montana photonics hub is our human capital. All of these businesses and institutions are growing and developing the next generation of high-tech workers here in Montana. We appreciate the federal support that is helping us create these exciting career opportunities right here at home."

To find out how to host an event at your institution or facility, [please contact the NPI.](#)

WHITE HOUSE OSTP AND NSF ANNOUNCE

QUANTUM LEAP CHALLENGE INSTITUTES

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (@WHOSTP) and the National Science Foundation (@NSF) have announced the formation of three new Quantum Leap Challenge Institutes to accelerate the study of Quantum Information Science (QIS). The Institutes will be hosted by universities and will receive a total of \$75 million in funding. They will include the Institute for Enhanced Sensing and Distribution Using Correlated Quantum States led by the University of Colorado, the Institute for Hybrid Quantum Architecture and Networks led by the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and the Institute for Present and Future Quantum Computing led by the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan, NSF Director said, "Through the Quantum Leap Challenge Institutes, NSF is marking targeted investments. Within five years, we are confident these institutes can make tangible advances to help carry us to a true quantum revolution."

To learn more, click [HERE](#).

Washington Update

The COVID-19 crisis continues to dominate the attention of policymakers in Washington. Amid this debate, the NPI has continued to advocate for necessary investments to ensure the future health of the U.S. research enterprise. In May, the NPI joined 17 other coalitions on a [letter](#) urging Congress to include the investments necessary to ensure the future health of the U.S. research enterprise in any additional COVID-19 response legislation. As a signatory to the letter, NPI proudly joins other business, science, technology, and academic coalitions in seeking comprehensive research funding.

The NPI has also been advocating directly to lawmakers about the need for continued investments in scientific study. The House Appropriations Committee recently advanced several bills providing FY 2021 funding for quantum and optics and photonics research and development.

The House Energy and Water Appropriations bill provides \$235 million to the Department of Energy's Office of Science for Quantum Information Science. This includes no less than \$125 million for research and no less than \$100 million for up to 5 centers. This is an increase of \$40 million over the previous year's appropriation. The House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill provides \$48 million for the National Institute of Standards and Technology STRS Account for Quantum Funding, an increase of \$8 million over the previous year's appropriation. It also maintains current funding levels by providing at least \$106 million, including up to \$50 million for 5 centers, for the National Science Foundation's Research and Related Activities account for QIS research.

To learn more about House investment in critical quantum and optics and photonics research, please click [HERE](#).

**SAVE THE DATE:
Optics & Photonics
Caucus Set for
September Launch**

Save the date! The

**Optics and Photonics
Community Crucial
to Fight Against
COVID-19**

Congressional Optics & Photonics Caucus is set for an early September launch after being postponed due to COVID-19. Details of the virtual event will be shared soon. This bipartisan, bicameral caucus will work to ensure the federal government prioritizes optics and photonics research and is providing the training necessary to build a workforce capable of maximizing their potential well into the future.

Be sure to check our Twitter feed - @NatlPhotonics – for updates!

The Optics and Photonics community continues to make significant contributions to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whether in the hospital or in the lab, optics technologies make possible rapid preliminary screening of potentially infected individuals, more accurate molecular diagnosis, reliable monitoring of disease progression and even, potentially, disinfection of contaminated surfaces.

To learn more, click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Like you, the NPI continues to adapt to our new normal! There are exciting things ahead and we appreciate your support!

Be well!



CONTACT US

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