



SECURING \$110 MILLION IN FEDERAL INVESTMENT TO CREATE AN INTEGRATED PHOTONICS INSTITUTE FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION

ABOUT THE IP-IMI

On July 27, 2015, Vice President Joe Biden announced that a New York-based consortium led by SUNY Polytechnic is the winning location for the country's first Integrated Photonics Institute for Manufacturing Innovation (IP-IMI). More than \$110 million federal investment and \$500 million in non-federal funds make the IP-IMI the largest investment to date in President Barack Obama's National Network of Manufacturing Institutes (NNMI).

Optics and photonics – the science and application of light – are ideally suited for an IMI because advances in these areas can be leveraged across a wide range of disciplines and applications. The IP-IMI in New York will focus on developing an end-to-end photonics “ecosystem” in the United States, including domestic foundry access, integrated design tools, automated packaging, assembly and testing, and workforce development. It will serve as a regional hub, bridging the gap between applied research and product development by bringing together companies, universities and other academic and training institutions, and federal agencies to co-invest in key technology areas that encourage investment and production in the United States.

The IP-IMI serves as a “teaching factory” that provides a unique opportunity for the education and training of students and workers at all levels, while providing the shared assets to help companies – most importantly small manufacturers – access the cutting-edge capabilities and equipment to design, test and pilot new products and manufacturing processes.

THE TIMELINE

The New York consortium's winning proposal was selected by the Department of Defense (DOD) from three finalists in July 2015.

Previously, the process began with a Request for Information (RFI) issued by DOD in June 2014 seeking responses from experts on key technologies that could become the basis for a new institute under the NNMI. Optics and photonics were listed as one of the technical areas for response in the RFI and integrated photonics was ultimately selected as the winning technology.

In November 2014, a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) was released to support the establishment of the Institute. On January 30, 2015, three consortiums led by the University of Central Florida, the University of Southern California and the Research Foundation for the State University of New York were selected by DOD to submit full proposals to secure an IP-IMI.

The IP-IMI is the sixth IMI and the fourth to be led by DOD.

A COORDINATED RESPONSE

The National Photonics Initiative (NPI), a collaborative alliance among industry, academia and government to raise awareness of photonics and the impact of photonics on our everyday lives, coordinated responses from dozens of experts within the national photonics community who organized to answer DOD's request. While the NPI did not endorse a specific IP-IMI proposal, it is strongly committed to supporting the winning New York consortium through the platforms, programs and resources of its top scientific societies – the American Physical Society (APS), the IEEE Photonics Society (IPS), the Laser Institute of America (LIA), The Optical Society (OSA) and SPIE, the International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE).

For additional information, please visit the NPI website, www.lightourfuture.org, or e-mail NPI staff Laura Kolton, lkolto@osa.org, and Krisinda Plenkovich, krisindap@spie.org.