



NPI wraps up 2015 with White House workshop and kicks off 2016 with Neuroscience meeting, Capitol Hill visits

The National Photonics Initiative (NPI) realized several advocacy achievements in 2015 as a number of our long term projects – including the launch of the American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics (AIM Photonics) in July – reached fruition. In October, the NPI was invited to participate in a White House workshop on High Performance Computing (HPC), where we advocated for private and public sector investment in photonic network architectures; in November, the NPI hosted a webinar to update both the photonics community and the media on the progress at AIM Photonics; and, in December, an op-ed by Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA) was published in the Boston Business Journal following a visit he made to Optikos Corp. earlier in the quarter to see first-hand the link between photonics and U.S. manufacturing innovation.

As we look ahead, there are several opportunities to get involved in the NPI during the first half of this year. Please read on to the end of this newsletter to find information about upcoming NPI events including the next NPI Photonics Industry Neuroscience Group meeting and reception on February 14 in San Francisco and Congressional Visits Day (CVD) April 12-13 in Washington, DC.

As always, thank you for your support over the past year. We look forward to continuing our work together as we begin 2016.

NPI Invited to White House Strategic Computing Workshop

In October, the NPI was invited to participate in the two-day White House National Strategic Computing Initiative Workshop. Alan Willner, chairman of the NPI, attended the workshop, which discussed themes such as the convergence of data-intensive and numerically intensive computing, hardware technology for future HPC, and improving productivity in HPC application development and deployment and workforce development.



Alan's participation in the workshop stems from the submission of a white paper by the NPI to members of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) HPC team outlining recommendations for targeted private and public sector investment in photonic network architectures to ensure a strategic advantage for HPC installations in the United States. The NPI advocates that there is a compelling need to accelerate U.S. HPC research and development which is essential to national security, defense and commercial applications. A U.S.-based effort that brings together private and public sector investment focused on HPC system architecture and software is critical. New machine configurations that incorporate photonics at a fundamental level would inspire and enable revolutionary applications of information technology to advance national security and economic competitiveness objectives in the United States.

The NPI was pleased to represent the voice of the photonics community at the administration's invitation-only workshop on the future of HPC. As we enter the final year of the current administration, the NPI will continue to focus on collaboration with the federal government on HPC initiatives.

NPI Hosts Webinar Update on AIM Photonics

In November, the NPI hosted a webinar to update the photonics community and media on the goals, operating structure and progress of AIM Photonics. The webinar also highlighted opportunities for community participation in ensuring the success of the institute. Speakers included: Alan Willner, chairman, NPI Steering Committee; Thomas Koch, chairman, Technical Review Board, AIM Photonics; and Tom Baer, past chairman, NPI Steering Committee.



More than 400 people from the photonics community and media registered to participate. This webinar served as the first of many communications that the NPI hopes to provide to the photonics community about the institute in the coming months. The NPI is strongly committed to supporting AIM Photonics through the platforms, programs, and resources of its top scientific societies. On behalf of AIM Photonics, the NPI will serve as an interface with Capitol Hill and government agencies and promote AIM Photonics through public outreach, educational, and media initiatives.

If you missed the webinar, you can watch it or view the slides on the [NPI website](#).

Rep. Moulton Champions Photonics in Op-Ed

Congressman Seth Moulton (D-MA) took to the pages of the [Boston Business Journal](#) to highlight the link between photonics and manufacturing jobs in an opinion piece published in late December. The column was inspired by his [visit](#) to Optikos Corp. in Massachusetts back in October for National Manufacturing Day. Moulton writes, "Optikos is an impressive example of advanced manufacturing in Massachusetts, yet new opportunities arising from photonics offer the potential for even greater societal and economic impact in the next few decades if supported by public and private investment."

The complete text of Rep. Moulton's op-ed can be viewed on the [NPI website](#).



Upcoming Events: Industry Neuroscience Group meeting and Congressional Visits Day

Photonics Industry Neuroscience Group Meeting and Reception – February 14

Next month, the NPI's Photonics Industry Neuroscience Group will host a discussion and networking reception on its progress related to President Obama's Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. Moderator and NPI industry group Chairman Tom Baer will present highlights from the NPI's BRAIN technology roadmap followed by progress updates from participating researchers and companies including presentations by the Stanford School of Medicine, Spectra-Physics, Hamamatsu, Incoscopy, Zeiss, Chroma Technology Corp., and Coherent, Inc. Agency officials have also been invited to attend and present. The event will be followed by an open forum discussion and networking reception with refreshments. The event is from 4:00 – 6:30pm PST on Sunday, February 14, in the Sutter Room of the InterContinental San Francisco. Please contact Krisinda Plenkovich at (360) 685 5518 or krisindap@spie.org if you are interested in attending.

Congressional Visits Day – April 12-13

In April, members of the photonics community are invited to participate in Congressional Visits Day (CVD), an annual day for photonics education and advocacy on Capitol Hill taking place this year April 12 and 13 in Washington, DC. This "fly-in" is often a highlight of the year for many within the photonics community as it provides an opportunity to gather in Washington to meet with members of Congress and their staffs, as well as advocate for the importance of optics and photonics within your district, on state, and geographic. Each participant will be placed on a combined your team based on their geographic region. A briefing will be available to learn how best to have an effective meeting and the priorities of the NPI and photonics broadly. To learn more about CVD and sign up to participate, please visit the NPI's CVD [webpage](#).

Contact Us

The NPI is interested in hearing from you. Are you interested in joining our efforts? Do you have questions? Need additional information? Have questions? Need additional information? Please contact Laura Kolton at (202) 416 1499 or kolto@osa.org, or Krisinda Plenkovich at (360) 685 5518 or krisindap@spie.org.

Please visit the NPI website for more information: www.lightourfuture.org.



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