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## PRESS RELEASE

### Photonics Technologies Extend to Almost Every Sector of Science and Society

*The European Photonics Industry Consortium is coordinating a 'Day of Photonics' on October 21st to promote and encourage the photonics industry through educational and informative events.*

**Greencastle, October 1, 2014:** More than 30 countries worldwide will participate in over 100 organized activities to celebrate the impact of photonics on our day-to-day life.

Photonics technologies are amazing, fascinating, and are found everywhere: in communication, entertainment, medical, manufacturing, automotive, energy, lighting, agriculture, photovoltaic, security, art, and so much more.

Photonics is a key enabling technology with a very bright future and involves the creation, use, and modification of light. Learn more about Photonics and get inspiration for Photonics Day projects in this video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZHgedyYWY&feature=em-upload\\_owner#action=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZHgedyYWY&feature=em-upload_owner#action=share)

On 21 October 1983, the General Conference of Weights and Measures adopted the value of 299,792.458 km/s for the speed of light. At the occasion of the anniversary, all kinds of demonstrations and discussions will recognize the importance of photonics. To view the participation map and add a support activity, visit <http://www.day-of-photonics.org>

Any company, research organization, or school is welcome to organize an activity. Examples include an internal meeting to discuss how your company's products/technologies contribute to photonics applications, visit a school and talk about photonics, organize a family day with a children's laser drawing contest.

Carlos Lee, Director General of EPIC – (European Photonics Industry Consortium International) is the coordinator for 'Day of Photonics' and asks that after the event, pictures of the activities be sent to him at 14 Rue de la Science, 1040 Brussels, Belgium or [carlos.lee@epic-assoc.com](mailto:carlos.lee@epic-assoc.com) for future publication.

Some examples of Photonics applications include: GPS, television, and cinema cameras; internet optical fiber communications; light shows and decorative lighting; consumer electronics; photovoltaic solar panels; fibers used for sensing in the oil & gas industry; energy efficient lighting (LED); laser systems used in welding, cutting, marking; sensors; laser eye surgery, tattoo removal, endoscopy, health monitoring; night vision devices, mine laying and detection, chemical detection; soil analysis.

- Light travels 10 times the speed that electricity does, internet data transmitted photonically can travel long distances in a fraction of the time.
- Laser beams shot to a solar cell on a flying drone can recharge it.
- Laser head-lights on a car can reach as far as 600 meters.
- Sensors can analyze sugar levels in the blood through the skin.
- A high-power laser is capable of cutting through 8 centimeters of steel.
- Sensors make it possible to identify at a distance if a driver has been drinking alcohol.
- Drones mounted with a camera can analyze the soil for precision agriculture.
- The Sistine Chapel uses latest LED illumination systems developed for art.

**About EPIC:** The European Photonics Industry Consortium, International, is the industry association that promotes the sustainable development of organizations working in the field of photonics. EPIC fosters a vibrant photonics ecosystem by maintaining a strong network and acting as a catalyst and facilitator for technological and commercial advancement. EPIC publishes market and technology reports, organizes technical workshops and B2B roundtables, coordinates EU funding proposals, advocacy and lobbying, education and training activities, standards and roadmaps, pavilions at exhibitions. [www.epic-assoc.com](http://www.epic-assoc.com)

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