



## THE ECONOMIC IMPERATIVE OF PHOTONICS IN A HIGH-TECH ECONOMY

**SPIE**—The International Society for Optics and Photonics, believes that photonics - the science of light - is a critical technology for a number of national priorities including alternative energy, job creation, and national security. **The U.S. needs a coherent, consistent government R&D policy and better economic impact data collection that supports the development of emerging industries like photonics to keep jobs in the U.S.**

- The world photonics market is predicted to grow at an average annual rate of 7.6% between 2005 and 2015.<sup>1</sup>
- The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that jobs requiring science, engineering, and technical training will increase 24% between 2004 and 2014.
- Scientific & technological innovation has accounted for roughly half of U.S. economic growth over the past 50 years.