



Ref ETOP045

**Opticsvalley testimony on their understanding of training programs in biophotonics**

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**Abstract**

Opticsvalley proposes to present its knowledge of biophotonics training, resulting from the association's two-year long study of the biophotonics field in the Paris Region.

It is clear that a large number of training centres have adapted their programmes to market needs and have developed programmes associating optics and biology.

Opticsvalley proposes to speak on one or both of the following issues:

- the development of optics/biology joint programmes by life-long training centres
- the creation of university programmes with a combination of optics/biology subjects

**Summary**

Thanks to its continuous interaction with companies (large groups, SMEs and start-ups), with research and training centres, and with regional and local institutions, Opticsvalley has been in a perfect position to identify the industry's training needs. This interaction revealed the increasing convergence between optics and life sciences, which is key to the future development of the optics industrial base in the Paris Region.

This means that the training centres have had to adapt in order to meet the needs of this fledgling market, which offers them new development opportunities.

Training centres hence need to understand and qualify this new market in terms of needs, players and opportunities. They also have to acquire new skills and competencies, combining optics and life sciences.

Actions lead by Opticsvalley in partnership with players such as Genopole allow training centres to better understand the needs in biophotonics training, and foster interactions between players in optics and life sciences industries.

More particularly, these actions have focused on the better understanding of optics and photonics applied to health care.

To date, the issues covered by Opticsvalley's study are related to optics applied to the environment and food industries.