

February 15, 2019

Dear Commissioner Moedas and Commissioner Gabriel,

On behalf of our nearly 4,000 individual members and 115 corporate members and the 5,000 photonics companies in Europe, SPIE the international society for optics and photonics, would like to encourage you to include Photonics on the technology priority list for Horizon Europe. The focus on Photonics as a Key Enabling Technology has been a critical driver in recent advancements in emerging and innovative fields like AR/VR, Autonomous Vehicles, Communications, Microelectronics, Space Technology and Industry 4.0, as well as vital foundational areas like security, data storage, health monitoring and agriculture, Photonics also underpins large-scale research efforts like the European Quantum Flagship, Extreme Light Infrastructure, the Human Brain Project, and international astronomy projects like ALMA and LISA.

The Horizon 2020 programme established Europe as a global leader in photonics research, technology and education. Continued prioritization and funding of this enabling technology by the European Commission is necessary to maintain a competitive global position in this innovative field that is at the heart of many critical and emerging technologies. Photonics fuels much of the world's economic growth and impacts almost every facet of our lives from climate monitoring and communication to fabrication and noninvasive health care that reduces recovery time and cost. Photonics21 recently reported that the photonics sector is growing twice as fast as the global GDP and is expected to reach a production volume of €615 billion in 2020. The European Commission cannot afford to limit its leadership in Photonics at a time when innovation is determining the winners and loser of the new technology-driven economy. We encourage you to enhance the role of key technologies for European Union competitiveness and to include Photonics as an area of intervention in the new Horizon Europe Cluster on Digital and Industry.

About SPIE:

SPIE is the international society for optics and photonics, an educational not-for-profit organization founded in 1955 to advance light-based science, engineering, and technology. The Society serves 257,000 constituents from 173 countries, offering conferences and their published proceedings, continuing education, books, journals, and the SPIE Digital Library. In 2018, SPIE provided more than \$4 million in community support including scholarships and awards, outreach and advocacy programs, travel grants, public policy, and educational resources. www.spie

Sincerely,



Kent Rochford
SPIE, CEO