Photonics for Communication and Sensors in the Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg
The amount of data created, duplicated, and transferred around the world is expected to be around 40 zettabytes by 2020. The only technology that can move this once unimaginable amount of data around the world is based on light transmitted in glass fibers. This fiberoptic technology can be used to move, detect, direct, collect, and amplify data but is also used in many sensor applications.

Research and development in Berlin and Brandenburg is focusing on the necessary components and technologies: fast laser sources, light modulation, integration into closed systems, and everything needed to interface the real with the digital world. The German capital region is home to world-leading research institutions such as the Fraunhofer Institute for Reliability and Microintegration (IZM), the Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute (HHI), and the Ferdinand-Braun-Institut fuer Höchstfrequenztechnik (FBH), as well as industry leaders such as Corning, Finisar, Leoni and ADVA and numerous small and medium-sized, highly innovative startups. The density of companies and institutions working in this field is only surpassed by Silicon Valley.

**Polymer-based integration**

The technology network PolyPhotonics Berlin is doing pioneering work in the field of modern fiberoptics. Eleven companies and three research institutes have joined forces in this regional competence network to develop polymer-based optical components. The focus is on a hybrid-optical modular technology platform that can serve as the flexible basis for different assemblies. The central chip with optical waveguides made of polymer material can accommodate other passive elements such as glass fibers, thin-film filters, and micro-optics as well as active components such as photo diodes and laser chips. The network’s vision is to become the world leader in polymer-based integration technology.

**Data highway in space**

Berlin is a leader in the development of technologies for laser-based data transmission in space. The ESA earth observation satellite Sentinel-1A, for example, is equipped with a communication terminal containing laser diode benches from FBH and several optical components and systems from the Berliner Glas Group. The German communications satellite Heinrich Hertz is scheduled to go into orbit in 2021. First Sensor AG and its
partners are developing a special antenna for communication with the earth.

**Fast internet**

An important focus of research and development activities in the region are optical data transmission technologies in data centers. The interconnects used today are reaching physical limits in terms of energy efficiency, data rate, and transmission distance. What is needed are innovative, cost-effective photonic packaging concepts based on very fast laser and highly sensitive photodiode chips such as those developed at Fraunhofer IZM. Sicoya has succeeded in integrating ultra-fast electronic BiCMOS circuits for drivers and amplifiers with photonic circuits onto a single chip. The core technology includes the world’s smallest silicon modulator, more than 10,000 of which can be processed on a square millimeter.

**Intensive networking in the cluster**

>For optical communication and sensor systems technology, the physical advantages of optoelectronics and optical packaging technologies in data communication and telecommunication, medical technology, industrial sensor systems and the life sciences are crucial. A wide spectrum of expertise, a first-class research infrastructure, short channels and sustainable networks – these are the factors that make Berlin-Brandenburg attractive. For many years, the close exchange between science and business has been a tradition in our focal area of photonics for communication and sensors.

Dr. Henning Schröder  
Spokesperson Focal Area Photonics for Communication and Sensors  
Fraunhofer IZM

**Photons for communication and sensor technology** is one of six focus areas for the Berlin Brandenburg Photonics Cluster, one of the world’s leading centers for the industry. The strong research basis and the large number of specialized SMEs with a wide range of expertise create ideal conditions for the mutual transfer of knowledge between science and industry and are also driving innovations in other sectors.

Institutions such as the Fraunhofer Berlin Center for Digital Transformation offer an excellent platform for interdisciplinary R&D cooperation.
Our aim: your success!

Berlin and Brandenburg support the focal area Photonics for Communication and Sensors with an economic policy developed across state borders in the Photonics cluster. The cluster is managed under the aegis of Berlin Partner for Business and Technology, the Economic Development Agency Brandenburg (WFBB) and the network OpTecBB.

Our aim is to provide comprehensive support to companies and scientific institutions interested in inward investment or further development in the capital region.

We are ready to assist you with:

- Finding a site
- Funding and financing
- Technology transfer and R&D cooperation
- Cooperating in networks
- Recruiting personnel
- Developing international markets

Reach out and contact us!
www.photonics-bb.com