

Meeting Minutes



Meeting: FPC General Members Meeting & Annual Meeting

Date: 11 December 2013

Location: National Center for Forensic Science at UCF

Attendees: FPC members, guests, presenters

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:15pm by FPC President, Alex Fong. Alex made some brief introductions and gave a short overview of the FPC, including 2013 results and 2014 plans, and results of the election for the 2014 Board of Directors (see <http://www.floridaphotonicscluster.org/board-of-directors/index.php> for the members of the 2014 Board).
2. Mr. Steve Anderson, SPIE Industry and Market Strategist, gave an update on the National Photonics Initiative (NPI) and a short overview of the global outlook for science and technology and photonics in particular. A PDF of his presentation is on the FPC website under "Events". A brief summary of the points in his presentation:
 - Global Outlook:
 - slow growth overall
 - squeezed science budgets
 - photonics can address many of the major global issues
 - much work is needed in Washington because too few decision makers know the impact and potential of photonics
 - NPI:
 - The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has set up a "Fast Track Committee" on photonics
 - Several industry-driven groups have met to look at the 5 broad areas defined in the NPI and to make recommendations on detailed actions
 - SPIE and OSA have contracted with the Podesta Group to help lobby Congress
 - NSF's 2014 Business R&D and Innovation Survey (BRDIS) will include photonics as a focus area
 - Some of the areas projected to see strong growth over the next few years include:
 - i) high-brightness LEDDs;
 - ii) Silicon photonics (particularly for data storage);
 - iii) 3-D laser printing (particularly for automobile and aircraft engine parts manufacturing)
 - 2015 is to be the "International Year of Light and Light-Based Technologies"
3. Mr. George Gordon, President of Anthem Ventures, gave a talk on "Establishing an Efficient Supply Chain With a Regional Focus". A PDF of his presentation is on the FPC website under "Events".

The FPC is a 501c(6) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to support the growth and profitability of the Florida photonics industry through the strength of a unified voice, and to make Florida the place to go for photonics solutions.

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4. Dr. Michael Sigman, NCFS Director and Professor of Chemistry, provided an overview of NCFS – see <http://ncfs.ucf.edu/> -- followed by a tour of some of the NCFS facilities. A few of the points in his presentation are as follows:
 - The NCFS was established as a Florida Type II Research Center in 2001.
 - Initial research work was on physical fire and explosives forensics
 - Current research areas is in physical (fire & explosives), biological (DNA), and digital evidence.
 - The NCFS has connections with several other university centers, including Florida International University (FIU) and University of Florida.
 - The NCFS has partnerships in place with UCF Police, the FBI, and Orange County Sheriff.
5. The meeting concluded with a reception for networking, hosted by NCFS and the FPC. A no-host dinner was held at a local restaurant for further networking and discussions.