



To Photonics21 Secretariat
via eMail: secretariat@photonics21.org

Dear Photonics21 Secretariat

We herewith submit the nomination of the following Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders candidate
Hellenic Photonics Cluster (HPhos) / Elias Hontzopoulos

**- Letter of Nomination -
Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders
Election 2023**

Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders - Letter of Nomination

1. Full legal name of the affiliation nominated as BoS Member (candidate's organisation):

Hellenic Photonics Cluster, HPhos

2. Full contact details of the affiliation (street, postal code, country) nominated as BoS Member and invoice address *(In accordance with the Terms of Reference §5, which the Affiliation acknowledges having received, an Annual Service fee will be invoiced every year during the first quarter to the BoS Member. By signing the present letter, the BoS candidate agrees to pay this Membership Fee. The Fee will be considered an asset of the Photonics 21 AISBL in accordance with its statutes (article 12b).)*

Hellenic Photonics Cluster (HPhos)
Kolokotroni 8
10561 Athens
Greece

3. Name of the suggested BoS Representative (the personal candidate)

Dr. Elias Hontzopoulos, President of BoD

4. Information about the BoS candidate and the BoS representative

- a) Description of the activities and information about the expected contribution and value added the nominated BoS member (candidate's organisation) will bring to the BoS¹

Mission/Objectives

Innovative enterprises active in diverse areas of Photonics related technologies, have joined forces to create the first photonics cluster in Greece, the Hellenic Photonics Cluster (HPhos). HPhos is established in the beginning of 2015 as an independent, private, non-profit legal entity. HPhos comprises a founding core of knowledge-intensive enterprises and research organizations. Most of these enterprises are based in the broader area of Attica, providing various photonics products and services for industrial manufacturing & automation, telecoms, defense & security, cultural heritage, food, health, environment, energy efficiency and conversion.

HPhos aims to cluster all Greek entrepreneurial, industrial and academic players in Photonics in order to create a hotbed for the development of new ideas and innovative products. Offering a fertile ecosystem that encourages the transfer of knowledge and expertise, it aims to become a critical support infrastructure to new entrepreneurship and extroversion of Greek enterprises and to provide networking channels to foreign enterprises and investors. HPhos's ambition is to intensify cluster and network collaboration not only across borders, but also across sectorial boundaries, in order to contribute in the emergence of new EU value chains

¹ The candidate is aware and accepts that according to the Photonics21 Terms of Reference (§ 5 (10) a membership fee - as determined by the General Assembly of the Association - needs to be paid to the Photonics21 association.

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that bring together enterprises from different sectors and better support SMEs in global competition.

Our strategic goals

- To promote the contribution and role of the Greek Photonic industry on the global scene.
- To foster collaborations between HPhos members and international players.
- To support members in their export orientation and international business development.
- To foster the exchange of knowledge between HPhos members and the international photonic community.
- To encourage and support entrepreneurship and innovation in the photonic technology space.

Projects Participation

- EuroPho21 (CSA): Implementing the European Photonics21 PPP strategy (1 January 2015 – 31 December 2017)
- NextPho21 (CSA): Developing and implementing the Next European Photonics21 industrial PPP Strategy (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2020)
- SEER (RIA): A “Smart” Self-monitoring composite tool for aerospace composite manufacturing using Silicon photonic multi-sensors Embedded using through-thickness Reinforcement techniques (1 November 2019 – 30 March 2024).
- BestPhom21: Boosting Europe’s Sovereignty in Technology by driving Photonics from Re-search to Market – Photonics21 (1 January 2021 – 31 December 2023).
- PhotonHub Europe: One-Stop-Shop Open Access to Photonics Innovation Support for a Digital Europe (1 January 2021 – 31 December 2024).
- Phorwards21: Photonics from research to market: Empowering Europe’s strategic autonomy, supporting the green deal and securing resilience – Photonics21. (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2026).

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- b) Description of the activities and information about expected contribution and value added the BoS Representative (candidate / person) will bring to the BoS.



Dr. Elias Hontzopoulos studied Chemistry at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and received his PhD on chemical conversion of solar energy in 1983.

Following his army service in a military research center, he joined the Physics Department of the University of Crete as visiting professor (1986-1991) and the Institute of Electronic Structure and La-ser of FORTH as researcher (1986-2000). During this period, he was working in the field of laser technology and applications, participating as scientific responsible and/or project coordinator in a large number of research projects funded by the European Commission (BRITE/EURAM, BRITE, ESPRIT, GROWTH, IST, COMMET programs) or other

international financial institutions (NATO Science for Stability) in demonstration projects. Today is an "Affiliated Industrial Researcher Associate" at the Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser (IESL) of the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH).

He served as Greek National Representative (1994-1996) in the "Committee of Senior Officials" of the COST (European Co-operation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research), and as a member (2000-2001) of the "High Level Panel for Research Infrastructures" of the European Commission.

He is involved in technology transfer in the field of Photonics and Laser Technology, having hands-on experience and participation throughout the chain from academic research - applied research - technology demonstration - "spin-off"-innovation - entrepreneurship – production – R&D in an enterprise environment.

Since 2000 he works in the private sector in various positions, dealing with the corporate management and high-tech projects (AxonTech SA, Vivodi SA, Lamda Technology Ltd, FOCO SA, VKR-VE-LUX, PRIME Laser Technology SA).

Today he is Co-Founder and Vice President of PRIME Laser Technology SA (solar thermal absorber manufacturer with laser technology) and Senior Partner and General Manager of Lamda Technology Ltd (company dealing with optical networks, photonic systems, and laser applications).

He is the main founder of the Hellenic Photonics Cluster (HPhos) in January 2015, while he is the chairman of BoS since the beginning.

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He is member of the “Regional Scientific Council for Research & Innovation” of Attica, as well as member in the steering group of the innovation platforms of the General Secretary for Research & Technology (GSRT) for “Materials – Construction” and for “Culture, Tourism, and Creative Industries”.

Through my participation to the BoS of Ph21, I would like to continue and intensify my efforts in the field of Photonics in national, European and international level for bringing forward photonic solutions while addressing major socio-economic challenges, such as those related to ageing society, better health for all, energy-efficiency, food safety and security. Furthermore, I would like to contribute for the reorganisation of the photonics community in national and regional level, in order to implement long-term photonics research, innovation strategies and continuous education schemes; thus, assisting in the conceptualisation of photonics activities and priorities in market-research driven way. There are several, great challenges prompting the continuation of our efforts within BoS of Ph21, related to the Ph21 restructuring to address the new approach to develop and to integrate photonics solutions in a digital and very fast changing environment. If I will be elected in the BoS of Ph21, I plan to:

1. Work towards the strengthening the representation of Greek photonic community in the Euro-pean level, supporting and promoting closer collaboration of Greek companies and academics in more direct level, to develop common or integrated product and/or services. Together with other Stakeholders from Greece we expect to concentrate actions, so to approach problems and provide solutions from combining the diverse scopes emerging from a Photonics Cluster, a Large-Scale Research Foundation and a Public University.
2. Work towards the collaboration with other European technological platforms and PPPs for supporting digitisation and data transformation priorities in a complementary mode and along cross-cutting value chains, so to maximise the possibilities of the financial support from the forthcoming “Horizon Europe”.
3. Work towards funding opportunities from private and public organisations to support national, regional and bilateral collaboration in more flexible and more direct way.

In short, my vision can be summarized in the **“Photonics driven industrial manufacturing in the digitalization era”**, as an additional catalyst for the success of PPP tool, where private and public sectors will be directly benefited from the advance and added value of Photonics in institutional, national, and European scale, while following the digitisation wave.