



To Photonics21 Secretariat  
via eMail: [secretariat@photonics21.org](mailto:secretariat@photonics21.org)

Dear Photonics21 Secretariat,

We herewith submit the nomination of the following Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders candidate  
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) / Pierre-Yves Fonjallaz.

**- Letter of Nomination -  
Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders  
Election 2024**

## Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders - Letter of Nomination

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

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

### 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).)*

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)  
Route Cantonale  
1015 Lausanne  
Switzerland

Invoicing address:  
EPFL Research Office  
Av. Auguste-Piccard 1  
1015 Lausanne  
Switzerland

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

Pierre-Yves Fonjallaz

### 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 BoS<sup>1</sup>

Contribution to the strengthening and visibility of Photonics in Europe: The added-value comes from:

- 1) EPFL is the most important research and innovation actor in Switzerland with more than 30 laboratories held by prominent professors active in the field with a total workforce of 300+ researchers.
- 2) EPFL generates 2-4 startups related to Photonics every year.
- 3) EPFL has an ecosystem of about 100 companies active in the field in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. As such, EPFL is not a pure academic actor but can also be a voice for this industrial ecosystem and a coordinating role.

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<sup>1</sup> 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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EPFL is Europe's most cosmopolitan technical university. It welcomes students, professors and collaborators of more than 120 nationalities. EPFL has both a Swiss, and international vocation, not the least European, and focuses on three missions: teaching, research and innovation.

EPFL collaborates with an important network of partners, including other universities and colleges, secondary schools and gymnasiums, industry and the economy, political circles and the public, with the aim of having a real impact on society.

EPFL is ranked among the four best universities on continental Europe (excl. UK) with its big sister ETHZ, Paris Sciences et Lettres and TUM, e.g. in the QS World University ranking 2025 (26, 7, 24 and 28 respectively).

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

Pierre-Yves Fonjallaz, PhD, was already a BoS member for some years when he was leading PhotonicSweden until he returned to his country of origin, Switzerland, in 2018. He was also supporting one of the first founding WG leaders, Prof. Lars Thylén, in 2005. At that time, he served as the director of the Kista Photonics Research Center (KPRC) in Stockholm, the collaboration between the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) and the RISE institute in the field of Photonics in Stockholm and he worked closely with Prof. Thylén. So, P-Y Fonjallaz has been actively contributing to the elaboration of the first SRIAs through his participation in three WGs on ICT, Sensors and Security, and Health. He has therefore a comprehensive understanding of how Photonics21, as an ETP or PPP, works, and of its values and purposes.

He has been active in Photonics since 1989. He has had a varied experience in four main and partly overlapping roles: a) researcher, b) research administrator, c) lobbyist and d) EU funding expert. His initial research field was in fiber optical components (FBGs). He led the fiber optical group and activities for RISE from 2000 to 2003. He was coordinating KPRC from 2003 to 2009. He started a consulting company in 2010. He cofounded the Swedish national platform in Photonics, PhotonicSweden in 2011 and was leading it until 2018. Since his transition to EPFL, Dr. Fonjallaz has dedicated himself to supporting EPFL professors with their EU projects, while also serving as a delegate for Swissphotonics within the EPFL ecosystem. His comprehensive background places him in an ideal position to represent and advocate for photonics at EPFL.

Pierre-Yves Fonjallaz is poised to contribute significant value to Photonics21 and its Board of Stakeholders through the following:

- 1) Strengthening EPFL's Position in Photonics in Europe: Leveraging EPFL's robust and dynamic research and innovation ecosystem in Photonics, he aims to enhance its contributions to the objectives and mission of Photonics21, reinforcing its prominence within the European photonics landscape.

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- 2) **Applying Broad Expertise in Photonics:** Drawing on his extensive and multidisciplinary experience in photonics—ranging from his early work in fiber optics (FBGs) to his instrumental roles in Swedish and Swiss national photonics platforms—he will support a fair and strategic distribution of EU public funding for research, innovation, and support activities.
- 3) **Enhancing EU Project Realization:** His hands-on experience in managing EPFL's numerous EU projects, including those directly linked to Photonics and Photonics21 (such as PhotonHub Europe and 360 CARLA), equips him to contribute effectively to shaping future Horizon Europe Calls.

With his extensive experience and strategic insights, he is well-positioned to make impactful contributions to Photonics21 and its mission.