



To Photonics21 Secretariat
via eMail: secretariat@photonics21.org

Dear Photonics21 Secretariat,

We herewith submit the nomination of the following Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders candidate
MEETOPTICS LABS, S.L / Barbara Buades.

**- Letter of Nomination -
Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders
Election 2025**

Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders - Letter of Nomination

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

MEETOPTICS LABS, S.L.

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).)*

Legal address:

MEETOPTICS LABS, S.L.
Avenida Carrilet, num 336, Planta 3, Puerta 1
08901 L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona
Spain

Tax address:

MEETOPTICS LABS, S.L.
UPC Campus Nord, Espai Emprèn
C. Jordi Girona 1-3, C3 S1
08034, Barcelona
Spain

VAT: B67427294

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

Barbara Buades Sabater

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

MEETOPTICS is the first AI-powered advanced search platform dedicated to optics and photonics, providing centralized access to the entire supply chain of components and equipment. By aggregating over 100,000 products and more than 1.6 million technical specifications from more than 150 global suppliers, the platform addresses one of the sector's major challenges: the fragmentation and complexity of procurement. Researchers, engineers, and companies worldwide already rely on MEETOPTICS to simplify access to photonics technologies, accelerate prototyping cycles, and bring innovations to market faster.

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

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The company's activities focus on four pillars:

1. **Accessibility and Efficiency:** MEETOPTICS replaces static catalogs and time-consuming manual searches with a semantic-deterministic search engine that standardizes data and updates inventories every six hours. This enables engineers to identify and acquire components in minutes rather than weeks, substantially reducing iteration times and project costs. More than 35,000 professionals from leading institutions and companies—including Oxford, TU Munich, NASA, Airbus, Apple, and ASML—use the platform monthly, with adoption growing steadily.
2. **AI for Photonics:** *Louis*, the first Photonics AI assistant, leverages AI to interpret technical requirements, suggest optimal components, perform calculations and simulations, detect incompatibilities, and propose alternatives. This tool reduces prototyping time by an average of 27 hours and lowers technical error rates by 35%, making advanced photonics more accessible to both experts and newcomers.
3. **Sustainability and Responsible Growth:** As a Top 5 finalist in the UN SDG Challenge (Europe), MEETOPTICS contributes directly to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). By helping engineers select suitable components on the first attempt, the platform reduces wasteful prototyping cycles and supports more responsible manufacturing practices, ensuring innovation goes hand-in-hand with sustainability.
4. **Support for SMEs and Startups:** MEETOPTICS provides visibility and new market opportunities for smaller companies that often struggle to compete with larger incumbents. By integrating them into a global, digital marketplace, the platform fosters inclusivity and competitiveness across the European photonics ecosystem.

As a member of the Board of Stakeholders, MEETOPTICS would contribute a unique combination of AI-driven innovation, deep knowledge of the global photonics supply chain, and a strong commitment to sustainability and SME support. The company represents the perspective of both researchers and smaller enterprises and can provide valuable input on how digitalization, data-driven approaches, and artificial intelligence can strengthen Europe's leadership in photonics. MEETOPTICS is committed to actively contributing to the BoS by sharing insights from its user community, supporting policy recommendations that enhance accessibility and innovation, and working collaboratively to ensure a competitive, sustainable, and inclusive photonics sector in Europe.

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

Barbara Buades, CEO and Co-Founder of MEETOPTICS, combines technical excellence, entrepreneurial vision, and strong community engagement. Her academic journey began with a Physics degree and two consecutive summer research fellowships at ICFO, followed by a Master's in Optics and Photonics at Imperial College London, where she also served as class representative. She later returned to ICFO to complete a PhD in Photonics (Attoscience) under

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Professor Jens Biegert, graduating with Excellent Cum Laude. Her research achievements were recognized internationally, including the Edmund Optics European Education Award in 2016.

Her research experience revealed the structural challenges of accessing specialized photonics components, which directly inspired her to co-found MEETOPTICS. Under her leadership, the company has grown into the largest AI-based search engine for photonics components, aggregating over 100,000 products from more than 150 suppliers and pioneering *Louis*, the Photonics AI assistant. This work has made component discovery faster, more reliable, and more accessible, reducing prototyping times and accelerating innovation cycles across the sector.

Barbara brings to the BoS a strong commitment to supporting SMEs, startups, and research institutions. She has championed initiatives that provide visibility, open new market opportunities, and foster stronger connections across the photonics ecosystem. Her leadership also emphasizes sustainability, as reflected in MEETOPTICS' recognition as a Top 5 finalist for the 2024 WE Empower United Nations SDG Award in both Europe and North America.

Equally important, Barbara is a dedicated advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM. She actively volunteers and delivers talks at leading institutions—including TU Munich, Charles University, and UPC—mentoring the next generation of scientists and entrepreneurs. Her values of growth, positivity, and inclusivity ensure that her contributions extend beyond technical and strategic expertise to also strengthen the social and community dimensions of photonics.

As a BoS representative, Barbara will bring creativity, scientific rigor, entrepreneurial perspective, industry deep connections and knowledge, and a deep commitment to inclusivity. Her mission is to accelerate European photonics innovation and make the field more accessible to SMEs, researchers, and engineers worldwide. With her unique combination of curiosity, leadership, and dedication, Barbara Buades is exceptionally well positioned to bring meaningful value to the Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders and to help guide the community toward a more innovative, inclusive, and sustainable future.