



To Photonics21 Secretariat
via eMail: secretariat@photonics21.org

Dear Photonics21 Secretariat,

We herewith submit the nomination of the following Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders candidate
PICadvanced S.A. / Francisco Rodrigues.

**- 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):

PICadvanced S.A.

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).)*

PCI Creative Science Park
Via do Conhecimento
Edificio Central
3830-352, Ilhavo, Portugal

E-mail: global@picadvanced.com

Telephone: +351 234 243 844

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

Francisco Manuel Ruivo Rodrigues

E-mail: francisco@picadvanced.com

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

PICadvanced is honored to submit its candidacy to the Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders, with the intention of actively contributing to the strategic development of the European photonics ecosystem. As a European SME and scale-up specializing in photonic integrated circuits (PICs) based transceivers, PICadvanced operates at the forefront of digital infrastructure and next-generation access optical communications, directly addressing the priorities identified in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), particularly in strengthening Europe's digital backbone through high-capacity optical interconnects, enabling high-performance computing and AI applications, ensuring strategic autonomy in critical technologies, and reinforcing resilient European supply chains.

Our mission is fully aligned with the objectives of Photonics21: to strengthen Europe's technological sovereignty, reinforce resilient value chains, and accelerate the translation of

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.

Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders - Letter of Nomination

research excellence into market-ready solutions. With a solid track record in European collaborative R&D projects and proven capability to transform innovation into industrial products, PICadvanced is well positioned to represent the perspective of innovative SMEs within the Board of Stakeholders.

By joining the Board, PICadvanced seeks to contribute to policy alignment, next technologies roadmap, foster collaboration with academia, and support the long-term competitiveness of Europe in photonics. We are committed to advancing the strategic role of photonics in enabling sustainable growth, digital transformation, and European leadership in critical technologies.

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

Francisco Rodrigues, Chief Executive Officer of PICadvanced, is honored to express his interest in joining the Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders. With a master's degree in Electronics and Telecommunications and professional experience as a photonics engineer, he has been directly involved in the development of advanced optical technologies for telecommunications networks. Building on this technical foundation, he pursued a Ph.D. in Business and Innovation with a focus on photonics for access networks, combining in-depth technological expertise with strategic and entrepreneurial vision. His background is directly aligned with the priorities of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), particularly in strengthening Europe's digital infrastructure through photonic integration, advancing telecom optical technologies to support high-capacity networks, and ensuring European leadership in access communications. By bridging the domains of research, engineering, and business innovation, Francisco Rodrigues brings a unique perspective on how to transform photonics breakthroughs into scalable industrial solutions, thereby contributing to Europe's technological sovereignty and the resilience of its value chains.

As CEO of PICadvanced, he has successfully led the transition of photonics technologies from R&D into commercial deployment, engaging with both academic and industrial partners across Europe. His participation in the Board of Stakeholders would provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by innovative SMEs and scale-ups, while reinforcing the collaboration between industry, academia, and policymakers. He is committed to supporting Photonics21 in advancing the role of photonics as a key enabler of Europe's competitiveness, digital transformation, and sustainable growth.

Ílhavo, 19th September 2025



(Francisco Rodrigues, CEO)