To Photonics21 Secretariat
via eMail: secretariat@photonics21.org

Dear Photonics21 Secretariat,

We herewith submit the nomination of the following Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders candidate Valeo Group / Sophie Cladé.

- 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):**

   Valeo Management SAS

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).)*

   100 rue de Courcelles
   75017 Paris
   France

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

   Sophie Cladé

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[1]

Valeo is a global leader in mobility technologies whose activities are deeply connected to photonics, particularly in the field of sensing, lighting and optical systems. The company has been at the forefront of innovation in automotive LiDAR, being the first worldwide to launch series production of automotive-grade scanning LiDAR. Its current generation demonstrates significant advances in range, resolution and reliability, providing a foundation for safer automated driving. This industrial success reflects Valeo's capacity to translate cutting-edge photonic R&D into robust and scalable products. The group's competence in optics, prevision engineering, and high-volume manufacturing, concentrated in its centers of excellence across the world is an asset of direct relevance to the European photonics community.

Photonics is equally central to Valeo's expertise in lighting and advanced driver assistance systems. The company develops adaptive exterior and interior lighting solutions, integrating electronics and optics to enhance visibility, safety and design. Valeo is recognized as a key player investing heavily in perception technologies, combining LiDAR, cameras, and other optical sensors with sophisticated software to deliver reliable detection and classification in all driving conditions. These developments illustrate the strategic importance of photonics in shaping the future of mobility and the essential role of industrial actors in bringing these technologies from research to market.

[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.

Within the Board of Stakeholders of Photonics21, Valeo can contribute by providing an industrial perspective on the challenges of scaling photonics from prototypes to mass production. The company's experience highlights the importance of cost efficiency, reliability and regulatory compliance, which are decisive factors for mass market adoption. Valeo is also well positioned to support the definition of European research and innovation priorities, ensuring that roadmaps are aligned with industrial needs and societal expectations, particularly in the areas of safety, sustainability, and competitiveness. As a leading European technology group with a global footprint, Valeo demonstrates how photonics can foster industrial leadership and contribute to Europe's strategic autonomy in key technologies. Furthermore, Valeo's commitment to innovation, sustainable mobility and collaborative ecosystems should make the Group a valuable partner to the Partnership, bridging advanced research with tangible market impact.

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

Through her optical Engineering studies from École Supérieure d'Optique, Sophie Cladé has gained a robust understanding of photonics. This was followed by doctoral research conducted at CNRS - Service d'Aéronomie, where her work focused on spatial interferometry and wavefront correction systems. More recently, her Master of Business Administration (MBA) from ISC Paris has complemented this technical expertise by integrating strategic and managerial insights. This combination allows Sophie to approach technological innovation from both a scientific and a business perspective, understanding the full spectrum from fundamental research to market implementation.

In her current role as Optic Discipline Director for Valeo's Light and Brain divisions, Sophie holds a central position in defining the optical technology strategy for a major automotive Tier-1 supplier.

Her responsibilities are structured around two pillars.

Firstly, she is tasked with identifying and integrating new optical technologies into their product portfolio. This involves continuous scouting for advancements in optics, assessing their potential for automotive applications to enhance product competitiveness. This activity provides Sophie with direct insights into emerging technological trends, the industrial feasibility of new optical solutions, and the challenges associated with transferring these technologies from research to production. These insights directly support Photonics21's mission to "strengthen the Photonics industry in the European Union."

Secondly, a significant part of her role involves developing Valeo's teams to master these new technologies, alongside efforts to standardize development tools and methods, notably through the introduction of Artificial Intelligence. This includes defining training programs, fostering knowledge transfer, and implementing advanced simulation and design tools that target not only Valeo contributors but also students as they represent the future of the company. Sophie's previous experience as Opto-electronic Department Manager, where she

developed and implemented a strategy for their LED portfolio and managed supplier relationships, and as Innovation Project Manager, leading the development and market introduction of intelligent automotive lighting systems, further reinforces her ability to translate advanced photonic concepts into industrial applications and manage complex projects on a global scale.

Sophie is particularly interested in engaging with the application-driven Work Groups within Photonics21, especially those focused on Mobility & Energy and Manufacturing. These areas align directly with Valeo's industrial presence and her professional experience. A key added value Sophie will bring is the ability to mobilize and involve competent experts from Valeo in these Work Groups. This direct engagement will ensure that Photonics21 benefits from the perspective of a leading industrial player, fostering a stronger link between research, innovation, and industrial deployment. We are convinced that her contribution will certainly support roadmaps creation, ensure industrial relevance and support Europe's position in photonics.