To Photonics21 Secretariat
via eMail: secretariat@photonics21.org

Dear Photonics21 Secretariat,

We herewith submit the nomination of the following Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders candidate.

Mr. Santiago Simón
Representing TECNOBIT SLU

- Letter of Nomination -
Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders
Election 2025

Signature
TECNOBIT SLU

Firmado por ***5218** CARLOS MANUEL FOUNAUD (R: ****9321*) el día 01/09/2025 con un certificado emitido por AC Representación

Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders - Letter of Nomination

§ 5 BOARD OF STAKEHOLDERS (6) b.…A candidate nomination will always contain the name of the candidate organisation together with its proposed BoS Representative and voting on a candidate implies voting on this combination.

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

   TECNOBIT SLU

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).)*

   TECNOBIT SLU
   c. Marie Curie, 19
   28521 Rivas-Vaciamadrid
   SPAIN

   VAT number ESB82193210

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

   SANTIAGO SIMÓN

4. Information about the BoS candidate and the BoS representative

Extract Photonics21 Terms of Reference[1]: "§ 5 BOARD OF STAKEHOLDERS; … (6) Election of BoS Members: "Description of the activities of, and information about the added value and contribution to the BoS by both the nominated BoS member 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[2]

Grupo OESÍA is a multinational company with 100% private and Spanish capital, dedicated to industrial and digital engineering. The group offers its capabilities in industrial engineering and security/surveillance through 4 highly specialised brands: TECNOBIT, CIPHERBIT, INSTER and UAV NAVIGATION.

Figure 1 OESIA Group corporative ecosystem.

TECNOBIT facilities are distributed in three different buildings with a total area of 19.350m^2 located in Rivas Vaciamadrid (Madrid), Valencia and Valdepeñas (Ciudad Real):

- Rivas Vaciamadrid (Madrid) comprised an area of more than 800 m2. These offices are mostly dedicated to engineering, management, transversal services and direction.
- TECNOBIT has established a brand-new site in Valencia in the Scientific Park ot the University of Valencia. The facilities have a total approximated room of 550 square meters, 90 of them of integration laboratories and cleans spaces (ISO7). Moreover, the Valencia site has direct access to advanced scientific facilities such as Climate chambers, anecoic chambers, ISO-5 clean rooms, among others. These facilities are the headquartes of the **Photonics & Space** area of TECNOBIT and host about 50 engineers by today. The team is expected to grow continuously

[1] Photonics21 Terms of reference are available at https://www.photonics21.org/download/about-us/structure/Photonics21_Terms_of_Reference_June_2021.pdf?m=1738079681&

[2] 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.

up to 150 people by the end of 2026. Regarding space flight segment, the activities that will take place in Valencia site will be the design, manufacturing, integration and testing of the whole developed space modules up to EM & EQM level. For PFM integration only the specific photonics tasks will be executed in Valencia. Other photonics-related activities, such as Photonic Integrated Circuits design and testing will also be performed in Valencia.

- Valdepeñas has an area of 18,000m2 dedicated to design, engineering, production, testing, clean rooms, as well as other complementary activities such as purchasing, reception, and quality control and assurance. The Valdepeñas factory is a modern facility equipped with the latest hardware and software design technology, computer design and management equipment, as well as advanced means for manufacturing, assembly, and quality control.

Figure 2 TECNOBIT facilities in Valdepeñas

TECNOBIT is a national reference in design, development, distribution and production of systems, electronic equipment, and on-board processors with specific applications in the space field. Also, TECNOBIT has established its presence in three continents, proudly consolidating itself as a global entity with 19 strategically located international centers.

In addition to the heritage of decades of supplying equipment for the most important international programmes and relevant governmental and defence customers, TECNOBIT is today a solvent company already involved in space projects. The company has been working in the space sector for more than ten years, when started the first activities for developing electronic equipment for the space flight segment of HISPASAT AG-1 (also called RedSAT), which was its first ESA contract. The last relevant

national programme in which TECNOBIT has supplied equipment has been Spainsat NG, providing electronics for the active antennas of the two satellites.

Regarding specific expertise in photonics for space, TECNOBIT has recently recruited a group of highly experienced engineers, some of them with more than 15 years of experience in photonics for space and with flight experience in their previous companies. In addition, TECNOBIT is committed to continue growing in this technological field both in the number of photonics experts and in the facilities, necessary for the design and development of the products, which will be established in Valencia to increase the current capabilities.

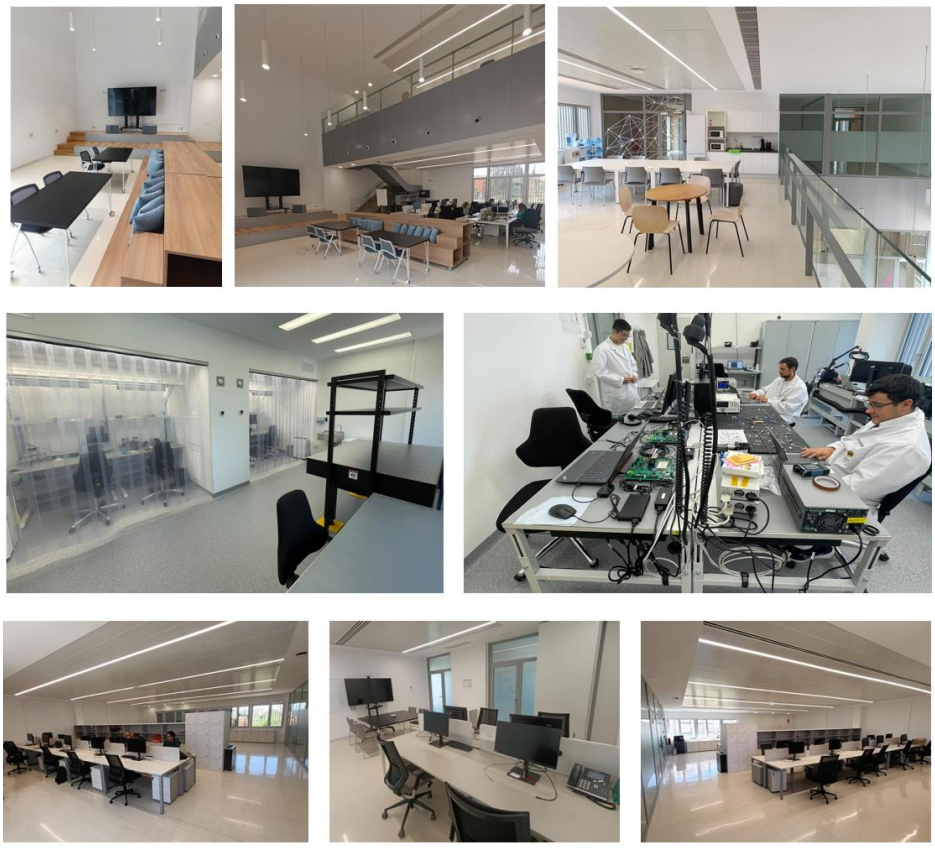

Figure 3 TECNOBIT Facilities in Valencia

TECNOBIT is currently engaged in several photonics-based projects across key domains such as Electronic Warfare, Free-Space Optical Communications, and Quantum Key Distribution from Space. These initiatives include both discrete and integrated photonics technologies, primarily targeting dual-use applications.

Our strategic commitment to photonics within the Defense and Space sectors is firmly established and actively supported through our Strategic Plan 2026–2030. TECNOBIT, together with the broader OESIA Group, will contribute to Photonics21's Board of Stakeholders by sharing its extensive expertise in the

Spanish and European Space and Defense ecosystems, as well as its strong connections with high-level stakeholders in national and regional administrations.

The OESIA Group reaffirms its strong commitment to actively contributing to the development of position papers, participating in strategic discussions and advocacy efforts, and supporting related initiatives that aim to strengthen the role of photonics technologies within the European Defense and Space sectors.

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

Santiago Simón, currently Head of the Photonics Area at TECNOBIT SLU, is the candidate nominated by the company to join the Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders.

With over 25 years of experience in the photonics sector, Mr. Simón has built a solid career spanning technology development, technology transfer, and strategic advocacy at regional, national, and European levels.

He has previously served as a member of the Photonics21 BoS representing other companies and played a key role as founder and Technical Secretariat of the Spanish National Photonics Platform. He is also a former board member of the Spanish photonics cluster SECPHO.

Mr. Simón brings to the BoS a deep and comprehensive understanding of the photonics ecosystem, funding mechanisms in Spain and Europe, and a robust network of contacts developed over decades of active engagement in the field. Now representing a major defense company, he is well-positioned to contribute to the strategic positioning of photonics within Defense and Space-related organizations and funding opportunities.

Santiago Simón Martín – Short CV

Current Position:
Head of Photonics Area at TECNOBIT SLU, leading a team of over 75 engineers developing advanced photonics-based systems for Defense and Space applications.

Professional Background:
With more than 25 years of experience in photonics, Santiago has been deeply involved in technology development, industrial implementation, and strategic advocacy. He has participated in numerous national and international R&D programs, including FP5 to Horizon Europe, ESA, EDA, and European Defence Funds.

Previously, he held leadership roles at DAS Photonics as Space Programs Manager and Markets & Products Director, managing key ESA projects such as QKDSAT Faint Pulse Source and QKDPhon ARTES C&G. He also served as Managing Director of Lumensia Sensors, a startup focused on integrated photonics biosensors, where he led business strategy, investor engagement, and industrial scaling.

Earlier in his career, Santiago was R&D and Innovation Director at AIDO, a photonics technology center, coordinating a team of 50 engineers and defining technological strategy.

Governance & Advocacy Roles:

Member of the Photonics21 Board of Stakeholders (2013–2023)
Founder and Technical Secretariat of the Spanish Photonics Platform (Fotonica21)
Board Member of SECPHO (Southern European Cluster in Photonics and Optics)

Education:
MSc in Telecommunications Engineering – Universitat Politècnica de València
Executive MBA – ESTEMA Business School

Patents & Publications:
Holder of multiple patents in optical systems and progressive lens fitting.
Author of several peer-reviewed publications in photonic biosensors, RF/optronics sensors, and machine vision systems

.

Final information from the Photonics21 secretariat:

- *We recommend limiting the BoS nomination letter to 3-4 pages max.*
- *Letters of nominations should be submitted electronically to secretariat@photonics21.org*
- *It is highly recommended to consult the Photonics21 Terms of Reference before submitting the nomination.*
- *Please note that the deadline for providing BoS nominations to the Photonics21 Secretariat is **20 September 2025**.*