



PHOTONICS PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP



## Annual Meeting highlights importance of photonics in key technologies

*Kick-start of a new Photonics Strategy Process, roadmapping the next decade for a key enabler for technologies like quantum, artificial intelligence and robotics.*

In his introduction, **Photonics21 President and Managing Director of the Mahr Group Lutz Aschke** showed that light-based technologies are indispensable for powering the European digital economy. Collaboration with other partnerships and the European Commission Missions are underway and will form joint initiatives in the future.

**Werner Steinhögl, Head of Sector for Photonics in the European Commission**, explained in his evening keynote the implications of the European Chips Act and where photonics will play a key part in its programme.

In the second part of the evening reception, the focus was on technological sovereignty and deep-tech financing. **Hermann Hauser**, founder of Amadeus Capital Partners and initiator of the European Innovation Council, stated that Europe has still a long way to go in deep-tech as *“the amount of venture capital relative to GDP in Europe is still only a quarter of that in the US.”*

In the same line of thought was the presentation by **Brendan McDonagh, Senior Advisor at the European Investment Bank**, who explained the European Investment Bank's capabilities for early-stage and growth-stage financing.

### Kick-off for new Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

Workshop Sessions were the focus of the Annual Meeting's Day two. They kicked-off the process for a new multi-annual Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for the second half of Horizon Europe.

The basis of this new strategic roadmap is the previous version, published in 2020: [“New Horizons - Securing Europe's technological sovereignty through Photonics”](#). Changes in the political, technical and socio-economic framework conditions have made a reworked version necessary.

The workshop sessions heard contributions from selected projects which are funded under the Photonics Partnership. [DEEPER](#), a tool for cell-type specific targeting of neural diseases, [GRACED](#), a new ultrasensitive detector able to spot the tiniest traces of pesticide or bacteria within minutes, and [TERIPHIC](#), which develops optical interfaces with Terabit capacity for datacom applications, all gave updates on their progress.

Follow-up workshops to define the chapters of the new research and innovation agenda will be held in Autumn this year.