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Dear readers,

It is a pleasure to present you the first edition of our project newsletter. **RespiceSME** is a project – funded by the European Commission – which started in January 2016 and reinforce the innovative capacity of Europe's photonics Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), clusters and national platforms by stimulating targeted collaborations in and beyond photonics.

We will keep you updated about our progress, exciting upcoming events and interesting facts about photonics with our semi-annual newsletter. We kindly invite you to visit our website at www.respice-sme.eu, which also intends to keep you updated about all our project activities. We hope you will enjoy reading our news and we are looking forward to sharing our events with you in the coming issues.

Yours Faithfully,

The RespiceSME Team

RespiceSME in a Nutshell

RespiceSME proposes new approaches for stronger innovative effectiveness using a **3-dimensional approach**. In the first dimension, RespiceSME will evaluate and **stimulate the innovation potential** in order to strengthen the innovation capacity of high-tech photonics SMEs. In the second dimension, **RespiceSME** will **enhance the global technological exploitation of photonics** innovation capacity by analysing different value chains valuable for high-tech photonics SMEs. This will allow significant **leveraging of non-photonics sectors** such as Environment/ Energy, Transport and Manufacturing and thereby, enabling the **penetration of new markets** and/or new application areas close to markets. The third dimension focuses on creating a **bridge over the 'Valley of Death'** to increase the competitiveness of the European photonics sector by developing **Best Practices** for enabling photonics SMEs access European and regional **Research Technology Organisations**, harnessing educational and **training** programmes aligned with their specific needs, determining next generation regional innovative **smart specialisation strategies** and providing **access to public and private financial supports**.

Reinforce the innovation capacity of Europe's photonics Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises



Innovative methodology to evaluate the innovation potential of photonics SMEs



To determine the innovation potential of high-tech photonics SMEs and to measure the existing status of their innovation capabilities, the RespiceSME consortium applied a state-of-the-art methodology, namely the **Potential Innovation Index (PII)**. Capitalizing on this validated methodology, the project partners developed a dedicated **audit questionnaire to assess the SMEs on their innovation capacities**. Within a personal interview with the SMEs' representatives, the partners analyse **7 main areas for innovation practice** which have been adopted for the purpose of the project and identified as the most suitable to capture the innovation potential of high-tech photonics SMEs. The 7 main areas are: **1) Ideas creation and creativity, 2) Design and new product development, 3) Competence management, 4) Competitive technology intelligence, 5) Project Management, 6) Knowledge Management., 7) Value Chain analysis**. The latest focuses on the identification of the gaps in the different value chains, so that the audit also tailors the current European market situation of the photonics industry. The PII index is thus evaluated through a series of closed questions covering the innovation practices relevant to the photonics SMEs which will be scored and weighted using both standard and harmonic averages. The cumulative weighted scores will be used to define the overall levels that have acute need for support and intervention in order to boost the absorptive capacity of individual companies.

*The competitiveness of companies, particularly SMEs, is largely determined by their **ability to generate and develop innovation products and processes and introduce these to the market. Innovation management** – the systemic planning and management of innovation processes in companies - plays an important role. The RespiceSME partners offer tailored support to their **SMEs** in analysing innovation ideas and transforming them into marketable products.*

What is the added-value for the SMEs?

With an insight on their innovation potential, the SMEs get a clear understanding about their strengths and weaknesses and the quality of the internal innovation processes. This allows them to adapt and/or optimize their strategic objectives for further business development and creation of new business opportunities in new value chains and industrial sectors such as smart manufacturing, Energy, Environment and Transport.

What impact does this analysis generate for the SME?

-  New collaborations with the Photonics Industry, companies from other sectors such as Energy, Environment, Transport and Manufacturing, Research Technology Organisations (RTOs), Universities and policy makers;
-  New market penetrations;
-  New applications and application sectors;
-  Networking opportunities (creation of new partnerships) and promotion in photonics community;
-  Integration into new value chains (new customers);
-  Success stories as marketing instrument;
-  Costs are covered by the project (free of charge for SMEs).

**For further Information,
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The Joanneum Research Institute of Graz, Austria



The Joanneum Research Institute offers innovative solutions and services tailored to the needs of business and industry.

The Joanneum Research Institute is a business oriented Research and Technology organisation based in Graz, Austria. It is linked to a worldwide network and has been providing leading research according to the highest international standard for more than 30 years. With focusing on applied research and technology development, JOANNEUM RESEARCH plays a key role in transferring technology and know-how.

The JOANNEUM RESEARCH MATERIALS - Institute for Surface Technologies and Photonics provides customers access to the latest technologies required for implementing innovative products and services, for example Laser Production Technology, Green Photonics, optical Chemo and Biosensors or Nano Imprint Lithography. The team of around 90 researchers provide interdisciplinary solutions across the entire value chain – from the idea to the prototype – using cutting edge technologies and methods based on miniaturisation, integration and materials optimisation. Combined with state-of-the-art equipment and infrastructure the Institute offers innovative solutions and services tailored to the needs of business and industry.

Nanostructures on large surfaces

The Institute operates a worldwide unique Roll-to-roll UV Nanoimprinting pilot line that can produce structures with dimensions below 200 nm continuously on film substrates. It is thus possible to realize very fine structures quickly and accurately on large areas in an industrial process. The master structures that are needed to manufacture the imprinting tool are produced using especially developed laser lithography methods or ebeam lithography.

Laser alloying

Laser alloying is a special technique that has been transferred into serial readiness. It is based on the addition of small amounts of alloying elements into the weld pool, thus generating a new alloy with drastically improved wear resistance on the selected areas after re-solidification. Main application is the local hardening of machinery components made of a cost-saving base material. Laser alloying has been applied within a world-wide unrivalled and patent-registered industrial process.

For further information, please visit the website: <http://www.joanneum.at/>



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Calendar of Events

Join us to the 1st Photonics Cluster Meeting at the international congress expo "micro photonics" in Berlin on October, 12th, 2016

In order to strengthen the collaboration and networking among photonics clusters & experts, the RespiceSME consortium organises a **Photonics inter-cluster meeting** in the framework of the international congress expo 'micro photonics' in Berlin (Germany) on the **12th of October 2016** (09:30 - 13:30). This meeting will build a platform for **exchange of Best Practices** of cluster collaboration and innovation development in their regions and countries. Furthermore, the participants will get insight on the tools developed within the project which aim at enhancing the innovation potential of photonics SMEs.

As leading event in the photonics sector, the 'micro photonics congress expo' offers a unique platform for the development, production and application of miniaturized optical components worldwide. The entire value chain starting from the application-related research and technique to the completed systems and machines will be presented at micro photonics.

The inter-cluster meeting reaches out to all photonics clusters and platforms who are interested in:

- strengthening new business opportunities with other European photonics clusters;
- Generating and discussing new business models to get solutions to market;
- Encouraging innovative business creation for their respective SMEs;
- Enhancing market entry for innovative photonics technologies, processes and services.

Participation: free of charge

Registration: Please register by filling in the [registration form](#) and send it back to Mrs. Fiona Gerente (f.gerente@opticsvalley.org) until the **30th of September at the latest!!** Participation is limited up to 30 people. Registrations will be acknowledged as incoming.

FURTHER EVENTS

14.09 – 15.09.2016	ENOVA 2016 <i>Paris (France)</i>	http://www.enova-event.com/
25.09 – 29.09.2016	Conference Advanced Architectures in Photonics <i>Mykonos (Greece)</i>	http://aap-conference.com/
26.09 – 30.09.2016	European Optical Society Annual Meeting (EOSAM) 2016 <i>Berlin (Germany)</i>	http://www.myeos.org/events/eosam2016
04.10 – 06.10.2016	Scanautomatic & ProcessTeknik 2016 <i>Gothenburg (Sweden)</i>	http://massor.svenskamassan.se/en/sites/scaautomatic-processtechnology/
11.10 – 13.10.2016	Micro photonics <i>Berlin (Germany)</i>	http://www.micro-photonics.de/en/
02.11 – 03.11.2016	Advanced Engineering show <i>Birmingham (UK)</i>	http://www.easyfairs.com/events_216/advanced-engineering-2016_83352/advanced-engineering-2016_84103/
15.11 – 17.11.2016	Smart City Expo <i>Barcelona (Spain)</i>	http://www.smartcityexpo.com/en/

