

INVITATION TO THE RECONSTITUTION MEETING OF

APPG PHOTONICS

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017

14:00 – 15:00 hrs.



“Shaping a Sector Deal for Enabling Light-Based Technologies”

Attendees: Carol Monaghan, Stephen Metcalfe, Chris Green, Stephen Pound, John Lincoln, Anke Lohmann, Karin Burger

**Agenda**

- a) Reconstitution of the APPG Photonics
- b) Will Sector Deals go ahead?
- c) Further Activities of the APPG

- a) Reconstitution of the APPG Photonics

The following members were nominated and re-elected:

- a. Chair: Carol Monaghan, MP Glasgow North West, SNP
- b. Vice chair: Steven Pound – tbc, MP Ealing North, Labour
- c. Secretary: Chris Green, MP Bolton West, Conservative
- d. Officer: Stephen Metcalfe, MP South Basildon and East Thurrock, Conservative

- b) Will Sector Deals go ahead?

Currently, the scenario is shifting and will be hard to pin down before the summer break. The APPG members should issue a joint letter to the submission panel asking for a formal response to the APPG. The submission panel should comment on whether an application for a sector deal for a horizontal technology such as photonics is sought after. The fact that photonics bridges the other vertical submissions that are to be expected needs to be highlighted. This letter is to be sent to Greg Clark, Minister of State for Business Energy, and Industrial Strategy.

- c) Further Activities of the APPG

- 1) The APPG should comment on other areas where photonics technologies can be beneficial, such as e.g. driverless cars.
  - Driverless cars
    - o Big companies like Google and Silicon Valley companies are buying lots of photonics technologies. Ford Dunton are testing driverless cars – working with Oxford.
  - Prepare comments on skills (Technical Education Bill), Brexit, Industrial Strategy as these are announced to go on the floor of the House.
    - o For the Technical Education Bill, this statement should cover:
      - Technical education bill should be defined as STEM, not beauty/childcare/etc.
      - The Technical Education Bill should address the lack of skills in the technical area.

- Identifying where potential skill gaps will appear;
    - Whether core level/higher level missed, then going to degree level;
    - qualified technicians are missing everywhere.
  - The Technical Education Bill is expected to be tabled in the October/November timeframe.
- 2) The Technical Education Bill is expected to be tabled in the October/November timeframe. APPGP should organise an event on Technical Education Skills in Photonics, with speakers from both the industry (SPI, Gooch & Housego?) and the educational side to portray missing skills on one hand and the lack of take up on the other. Also a speaker from Scotland should describe how the Scottish Government has changed the provision of apprenticeships there.
- 3) One of the next APPG event should be a Drop-in event “Photonics in your constituency”: come and meet your constituents in Photonics; stats: which companies, how much they generate; prepare a page for each constituency to give to MP. This could be as short as two hours.
- 4) The APPGP should give continuous input on Photonics to MPs and thus familiarise with the term, making them aware that there are exciting things happening in photonics. A consequence could be that suppliers in the UK are being sought to replace standard suppliers (e.g. CISCO in the financial sector) – this competition will generate innovation.