

Photonics industry requests from Gov: community input Jan 2026



Context

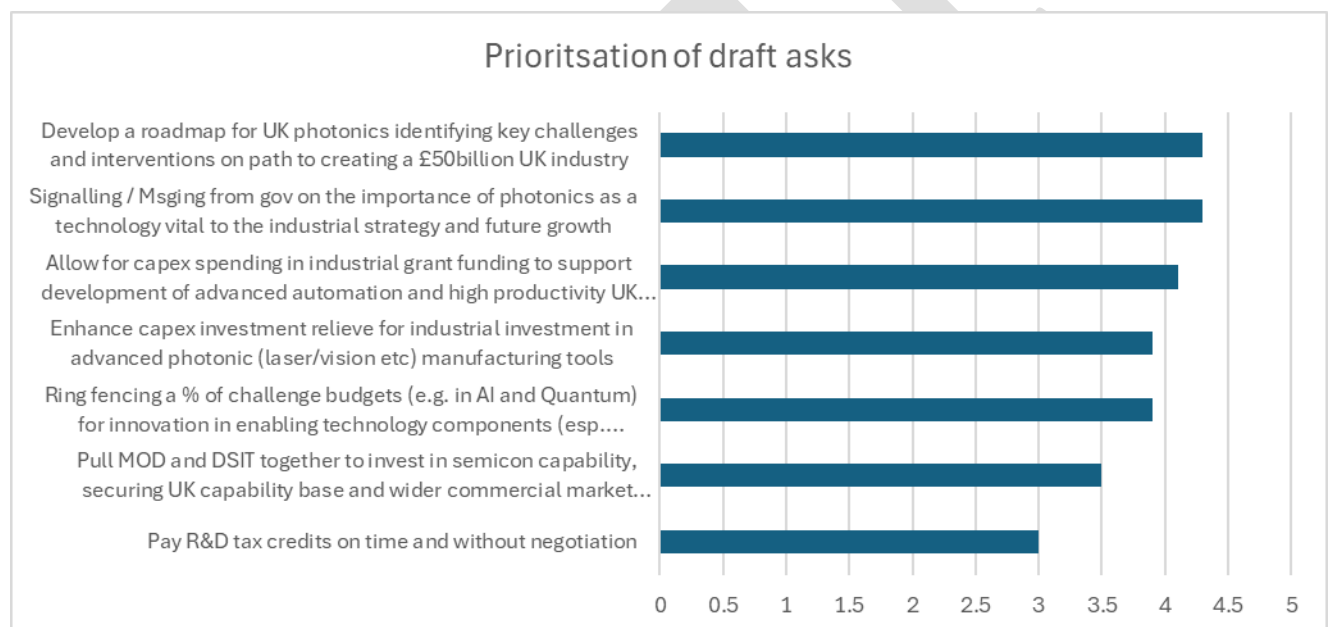
With a number of calls for UK photonics roadmap and a Parliamentary and Scientific Committee on photonics due in September it is important to update the PLGs priority asks from government so we always ready to respond the popular parliamentary question ‘what can we do for you’?

A clear set of asks should also compliment any roadmap, by making it clear what the industry needs to make that roadmap happen.

The PLG meeting on 29/1/26 asked contributors to first prioritise an initial list of suggested asks and then requested open input on additional asks. Contributors were also as to prioritises ‘what makes a good ask’ in order help in the selection of priority requests.

Ranking of draft request from government.

The following initial suggested were based on [past policy asks from UK government](#) and previous discussion in the PLG. The prioritisation is based on ~50 inputs from across PLG contributors



Given contributors had already been briefed on calls from CST for roadmap, for this to come at the top is unsurprising. However, the importance of messaging from government of the importance of photonics I to the successes of the industry strategy is viewed as equally important and is a very low cost intervention likely to crowd in industrial and risk capital investment. The importance of capex focused interventions is also clear.

Addiiton requests

The following were collected as open inputs to question “suggestions for additional asks from gov during the PLG meeting on 29/1/26. These range from very specific to highly aspirational. Despite this is clear skills intervention feature heavily as echoed in the requested foci for a UK Photonics Roadmap.



What makes a good ask / request from gov

Contributors prioritised the following request characteristics, with the following prioritisation showing good alignment and awareness of governments currently challenges and constraints

1. Specific and actionable i.e. things under gov control
2. Impact on growth and productivity
3. Specific to photonics, differentiated from generic asks
4. Affordable, few £million not £100 million +
5. Impact on resilience and national sovereignty
6. Efficient interventions : good bang for buck
7. Impact in 2/3 years
8. Sympathetic to gov constraints and challenges
9. Tweaks, amendments to existing interventions