

# Photonics Event in Moscow

## THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ›PHOTONICS. WORLD OF LASERS & OPTICS‹

OptecNet Deutschland attends with its first ›German Pavilion‹ in Moscow. Further growth for optical technology in Russia.



1 Member of the Duma parliament **Andrey Kokoschin** (center), **Dr. Holger Junge** (left) of the VDI Technology Center and **Dr. Andreas Ehrhardt**, Deputy Chairman of OptecNet Deutschland at the booth in Moscow (image right)

The 4<sup>th</sup> ›Photonics. World of Lasers and Optics – International Specialized Exhibition for Laser, Optical and Optoelectronic Technologies‹, the largest specialist exhibition for the photonics sector in the Russian Federation, took place from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2009. The event was organized by ›Expocentre‹ and the ›Laser Association‹ (LAS) and took place under the patronage of the ›Chamber of Commerce and Industry‹ of the Russian Federation and the Moscow Government. The exhibition was supported by the ›Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade‹, the Belarusian ›State Committee for Science and Technology‹, the ›European Optical Society‹ (EOS) and the ›VDI Technology Center‹.

Despite the unfavorable economic conditions, ›Photonics. World of Lasers and Optics‹ recorded growth both in the number of exhibitors and in visitor numbers. A total of 139 exhibitors – roughly 20 percent more than last year – represented a broad spectrum of the optical technology sector. To date, the exhibition has had a strong regional focus, with international exhibitors, including German companies accounting for roughly 25 percent. According to the organizers, more than 4790 visitors attended this year (3100 in 2008). Alongside the exhibition, the LAS organized seminars, for example on laser materials processing and laser medicine.

The Russian photonics industry is primarily concentrated in three locations – Moscow, Saint Petersburg and Novosibirsk, with roughly 40, 15 and 10 percent share, respectively, as Prof. Ivan Kovsh, President of LAS, explained. Focus areas include optical elements, laser medicine and

laser materials processing. Prof. Kovsh estimated the market volume for laser technology at around 150 million US Dollars per year. Intensive work is currently being done in the research sector, for example in the fiber, non-linear and diffractive optics fields.

Some German companies have long standing cooperations here. For example, Dioptic from Weinheim, Germany, has maintained a close relationship with the ›Institute for Automation and Electrometry‹ (IAE) in Novosibirsk for a decade and works with Russian researchers on developing and manufacturing diffractive optics for measuring aspherical lenses.

OptecNet Deutschland had its own stand at this year's exhibition for the first time, thanks to support from the German ›Federal Ministry of Education and Research‹ (BMBF). Alongside the successful pavilion at ›Photonics West‹ in the USA, this sees OptoNet Deutschland building on its international relations, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in international markets. Eleven exhibitors took the opportunity to present their products and services to the Russian market. The exhibitors presented a broad selection of products, including optical components, high precision piezo-drives, femtosecond lasers, tunable fiber lasers and high brightness disk lasers, as well as scanners, ellipsometers and X-ray optics.

The exhibitors on the OptecNet pavilion traveled to Moscow with different objectives and declared themselves satisfied with the trip. The exhibition provided an excellent opportunity to gain an early foothold in the Russian photonics market, which promises long term growth.

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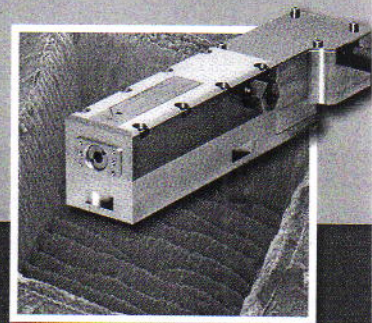
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