

FIREFLY presented at the SPIE Photonic Europe in Brussels

On 17 and 18 April 2012 the FIREFLY project was presented at the SPIE Photonics Europe exhibition in Brussels. At the stand, offered to us by the European Commission, the consortium, led by TNO, showed an ongoing presentation with our vision and project objectives. The presentation was combined with two informative flyers and a demonstration of some nano-imprinted samples. Attendees of the Photonics Europe conference who visited our stand, were interested in all components that we aim to develop. The future of optics in data transmission was widely recognized.



Sjoukje (TNO) with her colleagues in the FIREFLY stand.

Bert Jan Offrein (IBM Zurich) explained the IBM-roadmap towards the 'optical' computer in a presentation at the conference for around 80-100 attendees. He mentioned the FIREFLY project which is aiming at one step of the roadmap: the optical data transmission on the optical PCB between components.

The process of nano-imprinting, as will be used for preparing the polymer waveguides, was presented by Mikko Karppinen (VTT Finland) for an audience of around 50 persons. Also Mikko referred to the FIREFLY project and the funding by the European committee, which will help making a step forward in the production of polymer waveguide on an industrial scale.

This exhibition was a great opportunity to present the objectives of our project to the photonics society in Europe and we hope we will be back in two years with interesting results and demonstrators.



Conferences: 16–19 April 2012
 Exhibition: 16–18 April 2012
 Square Brussels Meeting Centre
 Brussels, Belgium

FIREFLY — European Network

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In October 2011 a new project, named FIREFLY, has started, in which new optical components will be developed, that will make it possible to transmit data over short distances. With these new components, the data transmission in computers can become much faster than with the electronic components currently used. The full name of the project is "Multilayer Photonic Circuits made by Nano-Imprinting of Waveguides and Photonic Crystals". The FIREFLY consortium consists of partners from the industry, IBM Research, TE Connectivity, VERTILAS and Momentive as well as research groups from TNO, IMEC, VTT, Tyndall and the University of Utrecht. In this shared research project forces are combined from materials, processing and device expertise to develop the nano and micro components needed for the transportation of light for the optical data communication, based on polymer waveguides. Innovative polymers, new applications of nano-technology as well as new methods for light in- and out coupling and the integration of all these new components are the technical ingredients of this ambitious project.