

For immediate release

NKT Photonics Pushes Supercontinuum into the Infra-red

NKT Photonics together with a strategic consortium is to develop and commercialize supercontinuum sources that extend to the infra-red spectrum. The project will run over a period of three years with a total budget of 4 million Euros, of which 2 million Euros has been awarded from the Danish National Advanced Technology Foundation. NKT Photonics leads the consortium, which also consists of high profile academic institutions and the focus is to realize viable supercontinuum sources into the mid-infrared (2- 4 μm) spectrum.

The availability of light sources in the mid-IR are very limited and there is a demand for broadband, high power fiber delivered sources in applications such as hyperspectral imaging, atmospheric sensing, pharmaceutical process analysis and defense. This project aims to fill this void with supercontinuum based technology. Already, NKT Photonics has successfully developed visible supercontinuum sources as a commercial product and this technology platform will be taken to a new level with advanced crystal fiber technology to provide mid-IR light. The consortium's expertise in modeling, drawing and characterizing micro-structured, non-silica optical fibers will play a vital role in solving the material and system challenges encountered during the project.

"The development roadmap of the mid-IR SC source is constructed in such a way that will potentially allow several stand-alone products to be realized as spin-offs during the course of the project," said Jakob Skov, CEO, "The development of high power Thulium fibers, amplifiers and fiber lasers at 2 μm are required from this project as building blocks for the mid-IR SC source, which can be also be offered as individual products in their own right", he continued.

The project is guided by high profile industrial companies, who have a keen interest in employing the end product of the project into their mid-IR applications. "Their response to the project has been overwhelmingly supportive and ensures that sources developed by this project will penetrate key markets," added Skov, "it is clear from these industrial companies that there is a technological gap and lucrative market that this project will fill"

The Danish government aims at making Denmark one of the world's leading advanced-technological societies. Consequently, the Danish government has founded the Danish National Advanced Technology Foundation, whose general objective is to support strategic and advanced technological priorities within the fields of research and innovation. Projects must live up to three criteria: Noticeable commercial potential, technology transfer, public-private cooperation. All grants must be awarded on the basis of an evaluation of scientific quality and industrial relevance. The foundation attaches importance to whether or not the participating parties have the necessary means at their disposal in order to carry out a major project. NKT Photonics is part of the Photonics Group owned by NKT Holding, an international industrial conglomerate.

About NKT Photonics A/S

NKT Photonics A/ designs and manufactures commercial and industrial class specialty microstructured fibers and high power fiber amplifiers. The company also designs and manufactures fiber-based industrial systems such as white light lasers and ultra precise DFB fiber lasers. The mentioned products are produced under the brand names CRYSTAL FIBRE, aeroLASE™, SuperK™ and KOHERAS™. These systems are already commercially deployed in material processing, bio-photonics, metrology, optical sensors, coherent communications, test and measurement, high resolution spectroscopy and LIDAR markets. NKT Photonics A/S is wholly owned by the Danish industrial conglomerate NKT Holding A/S.

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