



MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Date: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2002 at 14.00

Venue: Faraday Wharf-Aston Science Park

1. Attendees:

Stuart Webb	Advantage West Midlands
Sam Crossley	AOS Technology Ltd
David Robinson	Arden Photonics Ltd
Ian Johnson	Armstrong Optical Ltd
George Simpson	Aston University Photonics Research Group
Lucy Schadrake	AWM
Matt Hilderley	Birmingham Technology Ltd
Howard Wilson	BT
Dave Hallam	Celestica
Isabell Majewsky	Connect Midlands
Bob Peapall	CONTACT
John Knowles	Davin Optronics Ltd
Peter Austin	Fujitsu Telecom Europe
Mike Phillips	Fibre Optic Solutions Ltd
Ian Murgatroyd	Indigo Photonics Ltd
Keith Anderson	Integrated System Technologies Ltd
Geoff Archenhold	Integrated System Technologies Ltd
Chris Lester	LA Techniques Ltd
John Proudlove	Laser Physics UK
Alison Jukes	Laser Physics UK
Phil Hatchett	Leybold Optics
Mike Petty	Loughborough Surface Analysis
John Colton	Lucid Optical Services Ltd
Colart Brunton	Midlands Photonics Cluster
Glenn Barrowman	Midlands Photonics Cluster
Robert Snelson	Midlands Photonics Cluster
Ben Hughes	Midlands Photonics Cluster
Melissa Dickenson	Midlands Photonics Cluster
Jig Fagura	Optimat
Peter Clark	Photonics Insight
Geoff Lidgard	PRP Optoelectronics Ltd
Roger Carline	Qinetiq
Gary Gould	Qinetiq
Sanjay Patel	Schott Glass
Frank Ward	Schott Glass
Jake Grace	Scientifica
Alan Fairweather	SEEDA
Derek Sergeant	SJ Electronics Ltd
Dave Randell	Sumitomo
Alan Bell	Tessella Support Services Ltd
Roger Hazelden	TRW Conekt
Mike Holmes	University of Wales, Bangor

Apologies:

Richard Laight	Absolute Vision
Jonathan Mees	Agilent Technologies
Amardeep Uppal	Agilent Technologies
Ian Routledge	Armstrong Optical Ltd
John Williams	Aston University Photonics Research Group
David Webb	Aston University Photonics Research Group
Dave Hallam	Celestica
Terry Riches	Huber Suhner
John Proudlove	Laser Physics UK
Alison Jukes	Laser Physics UK
Mike Petty	Loughborough Surface Analysis
Tony Wanklin	UKBI
Stephen Kukureka	University of Birmingham

## 2. Status report by Glenn Barrowman

- GB opened the meeting and confirmed that the MPC is funded and supported by the DTI via Advantage West Midlands, the Regional Development Agency for the West Midlands region.
- GB stated that the membership structure of the MPC had now been confirmed and encouraged all present to join the group if they had not already done so.

## 3. MPC Events and Activities

- GB provided an overview of the visit to Kista Science Park in Stockholm, Sweden, which took place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2002. Attendees from the MPC were Mike Phillips (FOSL), John Knowles (Davin), Alan Ferguson (Oxford Lasers), David Webb (Aston University Photonics Group), David Robinson (Arden Photonics) and Neil Haigh (Lucid Optical Services). The visit took place in partnership with AWM Inward Investment team. The purpose of the collaboration was to promote the capability of the West Midlands to the Swedish companies in attendance. Mike Phillips commented that he had taken the opportunity to extend the trip and visit some additional Swedish companies. He had also valued the opportunity to network with the rest of the MPC attendees.
- GB confirmed that the MPC had been well represented at the EBN Business Connect Convention which was held in Madeira from 28<sup>th</sup> February - 1st March 2002. Attendees were Oxford Lasers, Arden Photonics, Agilent Technologies, and Integrated System Technologies Ltd. Geoff Archenhold commented that this had been an excellent opportunity for his company and he had successfully negotiated a European distribution agreement as a result of a meeting which took place during the convention. It was also noted that ISTL was a finalist in the BT Euroleader Awards for innovative companies successfully operating in European and World markets
- GB confirmed the MPC hosted a day of training presented by Lucid Optical Services on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2002. The course was about Optical Fibre Test & Measurement methods and was attended by representatives from Arden Photonics, Davin Optronics, Oxford Lasers, Jasun Engineering, Fibre Optic Solutions, and Indigo Photonics Ltd. John Colton of Lucid spoke about the contents and

organisation of the course and asked for feedback from the meeting on the content of future courses.

- GB advised that a programme of company visits is currently being undertaken to help the MPC to understand the skills, products and services available within the cluster, and to encourage membership.
- GB advised that MPC has been accepted onto the committee of the United Kingdom Consortium for Photonics and Optics (UKCPO), which is deemed to be great honour. Through this connection, Mike Phillips, John Knowles and Glenn Barrowman attended a meeting at Qinetiq. Qinetiq expressed their desire to collaborate with the MPC in the dissemination and exploitation of its technology breakthroughs and reserves of current technology areas. GB confirmed he considered this relationship with Qinetiq to be a key strength for the MPC and commented that the "spin out" companies residing at Malvern Science Park, such as ZBD would be invited to join the MPC network.
- GB advised the meeting that he, and representatives from Qinetiq, Oxford Lasers and Arden Photonics had attended a meeting in Llandudno hosted by the University of Wales, Bangor (UWB) entitled "Excellence in Opto-Electronics". Mike Holmes, Commercial Manager of the School of Informatics at UWB was present and he spoke about the "Excellence in Opto-Electronics" seminar, and how it was hoped that links may develop between the Optoelectronics community in North Wales and the MPC. GB confirmed that plans were in development to facilitate a formal B2B/tech transfer meeting between representative companies of the Welsh Optoelectronics Forum and the MPC.

#### 4. Future events

- GB told the meeting that the MPC will be exhibiting at two trade shows in the coming months namely Photonex 02 and ECOC 2002. Photonex 02 is taking place in Cardiff on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of September and ECOC in the following week. The exhibition stand will highlight the capabilities of the MPC, notably high speed photographic imagery, colour photometric systems, surface surface metrology, and optical test and measurement equipment.

#### 4. Briefing by Optimat on Mapping Research

- Jig Fagura of Optimat gave a presentation on the Cluster Mapping Exercise his company carried on behalf of the sponsors, Aston Science Park, Aston University, Birmingham City Council and Advantage West Midlands during March 2002. He highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the region in terms of Photonics infrastructure, and gave some recommendations for the future. A copy of the presentation is available from the MPC.

#### 5. Presentation on Connect Midlands

- Isabell Majewsky gave a presentation on Connect Midlands and its role in connecting entrepreneurs with the resources they need to succeed, and linking business service providers with new technologies and business opportunities. She explained about the origins of the concept in San Diego, and how the model has now spread to the UK and Europe. She went on to highlight some of the events that Connect Midlands organises. These include "Springboard" and the annual Investment Conferences, which enable selected companies to present themselves to the investment

community. Further details of the presentation are available from the MPC.

Picking up on comments from Jig about the lack of Venture Capital companies in the area, and Isabell's aims of drawing VC companies from London to the Midlands, a discussion ensued about the MPC's role in providing a focus for VCs in the area. Isabell mentioned the Centre for Entrepreneurship and the University Challenge Fund, which is a source of seed capital for University based entrepreneurs. JK suggested that a representative from AWM funding be invited to present to the next MPC meeting.

#### 6. Next Meeting

- [None noted at the meeting however Wednesday 16th October 2002 at 2pm is proposed]
- Meeting closed at 5pm with a networking opportunity and refreshments.

#### Contact details:

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