

IEEE Photonics Society (PS) Sweden Chapter Newsletter No. Q2-2025



Newsletter editor: Arne Alping

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2nd Newsletter this year from the IEEE Photonics Society (PS) Sweden Chapter. The intention is to issue the Newsletter four times per year.

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1 Major activities and events 2025 – since the last Newsletter issue

- The IEEE-PS Sweden Chapter's **2024 IEEE Best PhD Thesis Award** in Optics/Photonics was granted to **Dr. Rasmus Larsson** (Photonics Lab, MC2, Chalmers University of Technology; now a Postdoc at Photonics Lab) for his thesis entitled "**High Sensitivity receivers for free-space optical communication links**" [[link to PhD thesis](#)]. The Award received in March-2025 was **10,000 SEK** and a certificate. The Award was funded through the IEEE Photonics Society 2024 Annual Chapter Grant. The chair of the 2024 Best PhD Thesis Award Committee was Prof. László Veisz, Umeå University. More info: [Article in Optica](#), [Chalmers News](#), [forskning.se](#) (Swedish), [PhysicsWorld](#)
- On 25-April **Prof. Masayuki Fujita** (University of Osaka, Toyonaka, Japan) gave a talk on "**Terahertz meets the idea of silicon photonics**". He is an IEEE Photonics Society Distinguished Lecturer (DL) visiting Prof. Joachim Oberhammer's group (Microwave and Terahertz Microsystems) at KTH, Kista. The meeting was co-organized with the IEEE-PS Sweden Chapter [[for more info](#)].

2 IEEE Best PhD Thesis Award 2025 – open for nominations

- In 2017 the Sweden Chapter established an Award for recently graduated PhD researchers that have written an outstanding doctoral thesis in the general area of optics and photonics and that represents a remarkably impactful contribution to their field of research.
- The IEEE PS-Sweden **2025 Best PhD Thesis Award** is now open for nominations. The award is open to all relevant PhD students whose PhD was awarded by a Swedish university between

1-Sept-2024 and 31-Aug-2025. This requires that the nominee has successfully defended his/her thesis during this period and has fulfilled all requirements to obtain the PhD degree.

- Besides the honor, the award consists of a diploma and a monetary prize of **10,000 SEK**.
- Nominations must be received by the chair of the PhD Thesis Award Committee **Prof. László Veisz**, Umeå University, by 30-Nov-2025. [[contact info](#)]

3 QSIP webinar – a Women-in-Photonics event

- On 28-May QSIP (Quantum Sweden Innovation Platform), RISE and IEEE-PS Sweden Chapter co-organized a webinar on “Physical-layer Impairment in Integrating QKD to Optical Fiber Networks”. It was a webinar in the QSIP Webinar series on female role models – it was also an IEEE-PS-Sweden Women-in-Photonics (WIP) event. This time the presenter was Dr. Rui Lin (Chalmers/IEEE).
- It was a hybrid event chaired by Prof. Qin Wang (RISE/KTH/IEEE). She is a WP leader in QSIP focusing on promotion of more female and young professionals in quantum technology fields and she is also a driver for our Chapters WIP activities.
- About 24 people attended the event
[for more info: see [QSIP web site](#), the [QSIP webinar](#), and the [QSIP LinkedIn event post](#)].

4 Upcoming events: Best Poster Prizes at ATTO X

- On 6-11 July, **Lund University** organizes the bi-annual **10th International Conference on Attosecond Science and Technology** at The Loop, Science Village in Lund [[link to ATTO X](#)].
- Prof. Per Eng-Johnsson (Lund Univ) & Prof. Anne-Lise Viotti (Lund Univ) are the General Chairs. László Veisz (IEEE/Umeå Univ) is a member of the Local Organizing Committee.
- There will be 3 days with poster sessions with about 80 posters/day and **IEEE-PS Sweden Chapter** is sponsoring one of the poster sessions (on 8-July) with **IEEE Best Poster Prizes** – one Best Poster Prize (3,000 SEK) and two Best Poster Distinctions (1,000 SEK).
- **Prof. László Veisz** (IEEE/Umeå Univ) is the Chair of the IEEE Best Poster Prize Committee

5 Upcoming events: Women-in-STEM at ICNS-15

- On 6-11 July, **Lund University and Linköping University** organizes the bi-annual **15th International Conference on Nitride Semiconductors (ICNS-15)** at Clarion Hotel & Congress Malmö Live in Malmö, Sweden.
- Vanya Darakchieva (Lund Univ and Linköping Univ), Lars Samuelson (Lund Univ) and Piotr Perlin (Unipress, Poland) are the General Chairs. Prof. Qin Wang (IEEE/RISE) is a member of the Local Organizing Committee.
- On 8-July at 17:00 – 18:30, an event on “**Women in Nitrides – diversity and inclusion**” is organized by **Prof. Qin Wang** (IEEE/RISE) and sponsored by **IEEE-PS Sweden Chapter** through an Educational Grant from the IEEE Photonics Society. The event includes a panel discussing the importance of DEI (diversity, equality, and inclusion) in both academic and industrial sectors and the event is finished with mingling activities. The event is chaired by [Prof. Qin Wang](#) and [Prof. Denis Music](#) (Malmö Univ). Prof. Qin Wang is moderating the panel discussions. She is IEEE Associate Vice President (AVP) of Women-in-Photonics (2024-2026) and a member of the IEEE Diversity Oversight Committee, as well as a member of the Sweden Chapter Board responsible for WIP activities.

6 Upcoming events: Best Poster Awards at OPS-2025

- On 21-23 October 2025, **PhotonicSweden and KTH** organizes the annual **Optics and Photonics in Sweden** (OPS-2025) conference at KTH, Electrum, Kista, Stockholm [[link to OPS-2025](#)].
- Since 2016 the **IEEE-PS Sweden Chapter** has sponsored the **IEEE Best Poster Awards** at OPS. There are three (3) prizes: 1x Best Poster Award (3 000 SEK) and 2x Best Poster Distinctions (1 000 SEK each). Like last year, a 1-year IEEE Student membership will be added for the awardees being students. Posters with the first author being a student (Master student or PhD student) or postdoc are eligible for the award. The poster author also needs to state that he/she is a student or postdoc when submitting the poster abstract.
- The Chair of the Awards Committee is **Prof. Qin Wang** (IEEE/RISE) [[contact info](#)].

7 The Chapter Best Practices presented in the IEEE Photonics Newsroom

Advancing Photonics Through Collaboration: Best Practices From The IEEE Photonics Sweden Chapter

February 4, 2025



- After the Annual Chapter report was sent to IEEE Photonics Society they wanted to publish a summary of the Chapter's events & activities 2024 on IEEE Photonics Newsroom
- The news item was published on 4-Feb-2025 as: Advancing Photonics Through Collaboration: Best Practices From The IEEE Photonics Sweden Chapter [[link to IEEE-PS Newsroom](#)]
- Events presented in the news item: (1) IEEE Best PhD Thesis Award 2023 (winner presented), (2) Best Poster Award @ OPS-2024 (winners presented), (3) IEEE Best PhD Thesis Award 2024 (nomination), (4) OptoPub in Kista/Sthlm (with photos), (4) Celebration of Nobel Prize 2024 – a WIP event (with photos)
- The IEEE-PS presented a final remark about the Chapter under the heading **Looking Ahead**:
"In 2024, the IEEE Photonics Society Sweden Chapter made notable progress in advancing the field of photonics, both locally and globally. By prioritizing the recognition of emerging talent, supporting groundbreaking research, and encouraging collaboration between academia and industry, the Chapter has solidified its role as a major contributor to the development of photonics technologies. With exciting opportunities and initiatives on the horizon, the Chapter's leaders look forward to an even greater impact in 2025, continuing to shape the future of photonics research and innovation."

8 Recent PhD thesis defenses & Licentiate Seminars & Docent Lectures

- On 5-June-2025 **Theodor Staffas** (Quantum and Nanostructure Physics, KTH) defended his PhD thesis on "*Single-Photon LIDAR Exploiting Pulsed, Continuous, and Chaotic Illumination*" [[link to thesis](#)]. The opponent was Prof. Gerald Buller (Heriot-Watt University, USA). The supervisors were Val Zwiller and Ali W. Elshaari (both at Applied Physics, KTH)
- On 10-June-2025 **Ehsan Etezadi** (Communication, Antennas and Optical Networks, EE Dept., Chalmers) defended his PhD thesis on "*Efficient and intelligent resource allocation in optical networks*" [[link to thesis](#)]. The main supervisor was Prof. Marija Furdek and the co-supervisor was Dr. Carlos Natalino. The examiner was Prof. Paolo Monti.

9 Photonics News

- **The SPIE Optics and Photonics Global Salary Report**: It provides a reference for employees, students, and managers interested in understanding compensation across the career landscape: How does my pay compare with that of my colleagues? To what degree are my colleagues working from home versus in person in labs or offices? What can I expect to earn in industry versus academia? The report addresses these questions and a variety of other issues across 13 topical sections, drawing on original research conducted by SPIE. SPIE delivers the report each year, free of charge, as part of its mission as a not-for-profit educational society supporting the science and application of light. The report builds on data from over 7,500 individuals in 116 countries who shared career information in a short online survey. [[More info](#)] [[Download the report](#)]
- **Liquid-crystal platforms overcome optical losses in photonic circuits**: Photonic circuits, which manipulate light to perform various computational tasks, have become essential tools for a range of advanced technologies—from quantum simulations to artificial intelligence. These circuits offer a promising way to process information with minimal energy loss, especially in fields like quantum computing where complex systems are simulated to test theories of quantum mechanics. However, the growth in circuit size and complexity has historically led to a rise in optical losses, making it challenging to scale these systems for large-scale applications, such as multiphoton quantum

experiments or all-optical AI systems. As reported in [Advanced Photonics](#), researchers at the **University of Naples Federico II** have now developed a new approach to address this problem. Using a liquid-crystal (LC)-based platform, the team designed an optical processor capable of handling hundreds of optical modes in a compact, two-dimensional setup. This breakthrough offers a solution to a key limitation in traditional photonic circuits, where losses increase as the number of modes grows. The new system uses a set of three LC meta-surfaces, precisely engineered to simulate quantum processes, such as the "quantum walk," which is the quantum-mechanical analogue of the classical random walk. This LC configuration allows the system to handle a large number of optical modes without a significant increase in losses, something that was previously difficult to achieve.

[More info: [SPIE News](#)]

- **Photonics Partnership Annual Meeting (PPAM 2025)**: With over 220 participants, the 2025 edition of the Photonics Partnership Annual Meeting (PPAM 2025) again showed itself to be Europe's photonics event of the year. Taking place at the historic LePlaza in Brussels from 15 to 16 May, PPAM 2025 brought together leaders from academia, industry and policy, with a strong focus on ensuring continued representation of photonics in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The event also marked the 20th anniversary of the European Technology Platform **Photonics21**, celebrating two decades of advancing Europe's leadership in photonics. On the second day, the spotlight turned to EU funding opportunities, including prospects for photonics within the Chips JU, and a presentation on PIXEurope – the new pilot line initiative for photonic integrated circuits. Additionally, the Photonics21 Work Group workshops officially launched the preparation of the next Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. [More info: [Photonics21 News](#)]
 - **The PhotonHub PHACTORY initiative**: Under the PhotonHub program, the EU is investing €15 million in a new initiative to help European companies enhance their products using advanced light technologies. Running until Dec-2028, **PhotonHub PHACTORY** offers expert guidance, fast-track access to leading EU laboratories, and subsidies covering up to 85% of project costs. By lowering the barriers to adopting photonics, it enables companies to innovate faster and with less risk. Supporting the entire innovation cycle, from early concepts to scaling production, PhotonHub PHACTORY unites over 30 partners across all photonics platforms. Building on the success of **PhotonHub Europe**, which generated over €750 million in new revenues, 1,000 jobs, and €250 million in venture capital funding, PhotonHub PHACTORY brings Europe's best photonics support into a single, easy-access platform. [More info: [PhotonHub Europe News](#)]
 - **EU invests €6 million in new networks**: The EU invests €6 million EUR in the project SPRINTER, developing a photonics-powered network set to redefine factory connectivity. This ultra-fast, energy-efficient "industrial internet" leverages laser-based free-space optics and next-gen adaptable wireless to slash reliance on copper cables and unreliable Wi-Fi. With data speeds reaching 200 Gb/s via advanced InP-EML, GaAs-VCSEL, and tunable lasers, the platform ensures resilient, high-bandwidth links even amid factory floor chaos. As Industry 5.0 demands smarter, more robust infrastructure, SPRINTER aims to propel Europe to the forefront of photonics innovation, powering tomorrow's smart factories today. Led by the Institute of Communication and Computer Systems (ICCS) in Athens, the SPRINTER project brings together 12 partners combining top research institutes with major industry players. Key contributors include **Fraunhofer** (Germany), **IMEC** (Belgium), **LioniX International** (Netherlands), and **Universidad Carlos III de Madrid** (Spain), alongside global tech firms like **Ericsson** (Italy) and **Mellanox Technologies** (Israel). [More info: [Photonics21 News](#)]
 - The **Optics & Photonics in Sweden (OPS-2025)** conference is organized by PhotonicSweden and KTH on 21-23 October 2025 and the venue this year is KTH, Electrum, Kista, Stockholm. As usual, the conference will have parallel academic and industrial sessions along with an exhibition, as well as poster sessions. Day 1 on 21-Oct will be dedicated to the **Nordic Photonics Forum** featuring a "Photonics and Electronics 4 Defence" workshop [more info]
- Since 2016 the IEEE-PS Sweden Chapter has sponsored the **IEEE Best Poster Awards** at OPS.

10 Opportunities

- **IEEE Photonics Society Career Center**: As a member of the photonics and optics community, you have access to online resources to support your search for a new job and career growth. Check out current opportunities available and use the tools to finetune your resume, prepare for interviews, and more! Find career advice and your next opportunity in photonics [here](#).

11 Resources

- The European Technology Platform **Photonics21** unites the majority of the leading photonics industries and relevant R&D stakeholders along the whole economic value chain throughout Europe. Today Photonics21 has more than 3,800 members [\[link to website\]](#):
 - “**Europe’s age of light! Strategic Roadmap 2021-2027**” (Aug-2019) [\[link to roadmap\]](#)
 - “**Photonics Market Data and Industry Report 2020**” (June-2021) [\[link to report\]](#)
 - “**Market Research Study Photonics 2020 – Key data 1st Edition**” (July-2021) [\[link to report\]](#)
 - “**Quantum PIC Position Paper**” (April-2022) [\[link to paper\]](#)
 - “**White Paper on Integrated Photonics**” (April-2023) [\[link to paper\]](#)
 - “**New Horizons – Agenda 2023-2030**” (April-2023) [\[link to agenda\]](#)
 - “**Photonics Industry Supply Chain Survey 2023**” (April-2023) [\[link to report\]](#)
 - “**Optics and Photonics Technologies Serving Virtual Worlds**” (Feb-2024) [\[link to joint Photonics21 and VR/AR Industrial Coalition position paper\]](#)
 - “**Insights into the dynamic photonics market (2019-2022)**” (May-2024) [\[link to report\]](#)
 - “**Political Steering Processes in China in Core Segments of the Photonics Industry**” (July-2024) [\[link to study\]](#)
 - “**Photonics – an essential technology for defence**” (Oct-2024) [\[link to report\]](#)
 - “**Photonics for Virtual Worlds**” (Oct-2024) [\[link to report\]](#)
 - “**Photonics for High Performance Computing (HPC)**” (Oct-2024) [\[link to report\]](#)
 - “**Photonics for the energy production market: Fusion energy**” (Oct-2024) [\[link to report\]](#)
 - “**White Paper – 300 mm Photonics**” (Nov-2024) [\[link to report\]](#)
 - “**Analysis of US Grants for Photonics R&D Funding**” (Nov-2024) [\[link to report\]](#)
- Since many years IEEE-PS Sweden Chapter has collaborated with **PhotonicSweden**. It is a net-working organization with the aim of making photonics more visible in Sweden, as well as advance and support sustainable growth of relevant industrial sectors in Sweden [\[link to website\]](#):
 - “**Photonics Agenda – Photonics, a Key Enabling Technology for Sweden**” (2013) [\[link to agenda\]](#)
 - “**Optics & Photonics in Sweden**” – Facts about the Swedish photonics (2022) [\[link to brochure\]](#)
- **Photonics Research Centers**: To grow our community, the IEEE Photonics Society has created a research center database where members and volunteers can actively search for centers and institutions. [\[link to database\]](#)
- **PhotonHub Europe** is a “*One-Stop-Shop Open Access to Photonics Innovation Support for a Digital Europe*” [\[link to website\]](#) [\[link to presentation\]](#). Together with PhotonicSweden, RISE is the Swedish node of the project. Currently PhotonHub provide a large number of free “Introductory online courses” organized by different universities and institutes in Europe, including RISE. [\[link to website\]](#)
- **PhotonDelta** is a European network consisting of researchers, chip designers, foundries, and software developers. Their partners are technology leaders in integrated photonics modules, with a specialty in single and hybrid InP and SiN waveguide technologies [\[link to website\]](#)
- The **Optica Technical Group webinars** provide free online content on optics and photonics from 46 technical groups and feature an hour-long presentation by selected speakers. The on-demand webinar library contains over 200 past webinars. [\[link to Optica webinars\]](#)
- **IEEE Photonics Society** also offers a few **webinars** for their members only as one of their Online Learning Resources [\[link to IEEE-PS resources\]](#).
- Researchers in **The Graphene Flagship** has published an article on graphene-based integrated photonics, including comparison with existing technologies, as well as a roadmap [\[link to article\]](#)
- The European Commission (EC) “**CORDIS Results Pack on Photonics**” (2020) [\[link to report\]](#)
- SPIE eBook (infographics) on “**Photonics – Technical Applications of Light**” [\[link to free eBook\]](#)
- Optica Industry Development Associates (OIDA) **Quantum Photonic Roadmap** [\[link to a free copy\]](#)
- IEEE 802.3™ **Ethernet Bandwidth Assessment** [\[link to report\]](#) [\[link to tutorial slides\]](#)
- The **Integrated Photonic Systems Roadmap-International** (IPSR-I) is the result of about 400 academic and industrial experts from across the globe, working in the field of integrated photonic technologies and their applications. [\[link to overview\]](#) [\[link to 2023/2024 roadmaps\]](#)
- **The UNESCO International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies 2015** (IYL 2015) created a report that aims to give a synthetic account of IYL 2015, describing its origins and goals. The report

also contains information on organization and communications, and it is hoped that these details may provide guidance for others who may wish to organize a similar global outreach initiative in the future.

- The journals of **Institution of Engineering Technology** (IET) are fully Open Access and available on the new [IET Research hub](#) through the Wiley Online Library.
- **Swedish Electronics Industry's Agenda 2.0** where photonics is mentioned as a spearhead area with 250 companies and around 8 000 employees (2023-12-04) [\[link to agenda\]](#)
- The **Competitiveness Compass** is EU's strategic roadmap designed to strengthen Europe's economic and technological leadership (Jan-2025) [\[link to roadmap\]](#)
- **NEW Photonics21** has a dedicated web page for open [European photonics-related calls](#)

12 IEEE Distinguished Lecturer 2025

- To enhance the technical programs of the Chapters the IEEE Photonics Society **Distinguished Lecturer** (DL) Program provides excellent speakers who have made technical, industrial, or entrepreneurial contributions to the field of photonics [\[link to more info\]](#).
- This year's (2025) **Distinguished Lecturer** are [Prof. Liangcai Cao](#) (Tsinghua University, China), [Prof. Masayuki Fujita](#) (Osaka University, Japan), [Dr. Daniel M. Kuchta](#) (Nvidia, USA), [Prof. Ho Wai \(Howard\) Lee](#) (Univ. California, Irvine, USA), [Prof. Mohamed-Slim Alouini](#) (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia), and [Prof. Jian Wang](#) (Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China).
- Chapters (and members!) may request Distinguished Lecturers to give talks at chapter meetings, or chapter-related events. If a lecturer is available at the time of the event and accepts a talk invitation, the lecturer will travel to address the Chapter members at no cost to the Chapter.
- If you are planning a seminar with a DL as an invited guest speaker you may consider contacting the IEEE-PS Sweden Chapter for sponsoring the cost for refreshments [\[see below for more info\]](#)
- It might also be possible to create an event using an on-line tool (e.g., MS Teams, Zoom, etc.).

13 Administrative News

- **Sponsoring workshops/seminars:** For 2025 we have allocated a part of our budget for sponsoring workshops/seminars with some minor cost for refreshments (~2,000 SEK). Except for the seminars being in the optics/photonics field the only obligation for the meeting organizer is to give information about the IEEE PS-Sweden (e.g., a presentation with a few slides) and use the IEEE Photonics Society logo. The meeting organizer will also be allowed to announce their meeting to the IEEE-PS Sweden Chapter members through relevant IEEE communication channels (e.g., IEEE Sweden web, IEEE eNotes emails, IEEE vTools Events, IEEE Collabratec, IEEE-PS Sweden Chapter Newsletters). Nominations for the sponsoring grant should be sent by email to arne.alping@ieee.org.
- The **IEEE Center for Leadership Excellence** (CLE) offers a 'one stop' training solution designed to serve the multiple and diverse range of IEEE user communities. [\[more info\]](#)
- **Become an IEEE Senior Member:** Senior member is the highest grade for which IEEE members can apply. IEEE members can self-nominate, or be nominated, for Senior Member grade. To be eligible for application or nomination, candidates must: (1) Be engineers, scientists, educators, technical executives, or originators in IEEE-designated fields; (2) have experience reflecting professional maturity; (3) have been in professional practice for at least ten years (with some credit for certain degrees); (4) show significant performance over a period of at least five of their years in professional practice.
 - [Review complete Senior member requirements](#)
 - [Begin Senior member application process](#)

14 Future Newsletters – Possible contents

To be able to include information of interest to the Chapter members we need input from all of you. Future Newsletters may contain, e.g.,

- Presentation of recently defended PhDs and Licentiates (e.g., photo & short description)
- Presentation of members lab, department, company
- Announcement of upcoming public invited talks, seminars, workshops, etc.
- Photonics news (grants, research breakthroughs, etc.)

15 Chapter Member Statistics 2025

On 15-June-2025 the Chapter had 39 members in total, including 16 Senior Members, 4 Fellows, 3 Graduate Student Members, and 16 regular members (3 of them were student members last year). 15% of the members and 45% of the Board members are female. 28% of the members are from industry; the rest are from universities and research institutes.

16 Chapter Board Activities 2025

- The IEEE-PS Sweden Chapter Board had so far one (1) regular board meeting by teleconference
- The Chapter has received funding from the IEEE Photonics Society **2025 Annual Chapter Grant** for the Best PhD Thesis Award 2025, the Best Poster Award at OPS-2025 and sponsoring of an OptoPub
- The Chapter has received funding (\$5,000 USD) from the IEEE-PS **Educational Seed Funding Grant 2025** for sponsoring the Women-in-STEM event at ICNS-15
- **Prof. Qin Wang** is the Chair of the event “Women in Nitrides – diversity and inclusion” at ICNS-15
- **Prof. László Veisz** is the Chair of the IEEE Best Poster Awards at ATTO X
- **Prof. Qin Wang** is the Chair of the IEEE Best Poster Awards at OPS-2025
- **Prof. László Veisz** is the Chair of the 2025 IEEE Best PhD Thesis Award Committee

17 Chapter Board Members

Chair	Dr. Arne Alping , MWP Technology Consulting (Gothenburg)
Vice-chair	Prof. Philippe Tassin , Chalmers (Gothenburg)
Secretary	Prof. László Veisz , Umeå University (Umeå)
Treasurer	<i>Vacant position</i>
Webmaster	Dr. Rui Lin , Chalmers (Gothenburg)
Member Development Officer	Dr. Xiaodan Pang , KTH (Stockholm)
Women-in-Photonics (WIP)	Prof. Qin Wang , RISE and adjunct Prof. at KTH (Stockholm) Dr. Shagufta Naureen , Coherent (Stockholm) Dr. Rui Lin , Chalmers (Gothenburg)
Chair – Best PhD Thesis Award Committee	Prof. Philippe Tassin , Chalmers (Gothenburg)
Newsletter Editor	Dr. Arne Alping , MWP Technology Consulting (Gothenburg)