PRESS RELEASE

Grand opening of the Photonics Cluster on RWTH Aachen Campus

600 guests enjoy Campus Talk with Fraunhofer ILT, Landmarken AG and architects KPF

Aachen, April 29, 2016 – The International Laser Technology Congress AKL'16, organized by Fraunhofer ILT, welcomed more than 500 laser technology experts and 100 scientists, business leaders and politicians to the Campus Talk during the evening event. These guests saw as property developers Landmarken AG and KPF architects officially handed Fraunhofer ILT the keys to the new Photonics Cluster building. Following the "Photonics Cluster – Tailored Light" talk, guests had the opportunity to visit the new building and take a look at its research facilities and offices.

The discussion panel comprised Annekathrin Grehling, Aachen's city manager; Prof. Ernst Schmachtenberg, Rector, RWTH Aachen; Norbert Hermanns, CEO Landmarken AG; Prof. Reinhart Poprawe, Director of the Photonics Cluster and Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology ILT; Jens Hardvendel, a Director with architects KPF; and Ingomar Kelbassa, Department Manager, Siemens AG. The focus of the discussion was on the building's technical research applications and structural dimensions. Grehling and Schmachtenberg stressed how Aachen is world renowned for its multi-award-winning laser technology for manufacturing industries.

More than 690 members of the laser community converge on Aachen for the biennial AKL'16 Eurogress. At this year's event, the 11th time AKL has been held, nearly 80 experts from laser manufacturers spoke to experienced users as well as newcomers to laser technology about current practices and the scientific community's latest research findings. Held at Europe's largest laser park at Fraunhofer ILT, guests could choose from more than 90 live laser-technology demonstrations. The technology conference also sponsored an exhibit of 52 well-known companies in the laser technology field. Here, participants enjoyed the chance to make new contacts or strengthen existing

ones by discussing innovations in laser technology, processes and laser products in greater depth.

“With the addition of the Photonics Cluster on RWTH Aachen Campus, our international reputation for laser technology will expand even further,” said Prof. Reinhart Poprawe, Director of the Photonics Cluster. “Now the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology ILT and RWTH institutes can work together with companies under one roof to explore the future of lasers and their versatile applications.”

“The cluster principle on RWTH Aachen Campus, which allows the economic and the scientific communities to support one another, is reflected in the architecture as well,” said Landmarken AG CEO Norbert Hermanns, referring to the well-lit atrium and many meeting spaces of the newly inaugurated building. Landmarken AG is involved in the project’s developer, ante4C GmbH. Hermanns added: “We have believed in the campus project from the start, and we will remain closely connected to it.”

Caption (left to right):

Photonics Cluster on Campus Melaten (Copyright Campus GmbH)

Atrium of the first construction phase (Copyright Campus GmbH)

Opening of the Photonics Cluster (Copyright Fraunhofer ILT/A. Steindl; left to right):
Jens Kreiterling (Landmarken AG), Jens Hardvendel (KPF Architects), Norbert Hermanns (Landmarken AG), Aachen’s city manager Annekathrin Grehling (City of Aachen), Prof. Johannes Henrich Schleifenbaum (Chair Additive Manufacturing), Prof. Ernst Schmachtenberg (RWTH Aachen University), Prof. Reinhart Poprawe (Director of the Photonics Cluster), Dr. Ulrich Steger (Ministry for Innovation, Science and Research of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW)), Prof. Ingomar Kelbassa, Siemens AG)

Pictures:

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Further Information:

Photonics Cluster
The Photonics Cluster is one of the six initial clusters on RWTH Aachen Campus. It specializes in researching and developing techniques designed to generate, shape and harness light – in particular as an industrial manufacturing tool. Compared with other tools, light and laser beams can be precisely metered and controlled. The Aachen Center for Additive Manufacturing (ACAM) and the Center for Digital Photonic Production (DPP) are both active in the Photonics Cluster.

Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology ILT
With over 415 employees and more than 19,500 m² of usable floor space, the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology ILT is one of the most important development and contract research institutes in the field of laser development and applications. Its core activities comprise the development of new laser beam sources and components, precise laser-based metrology, testing technology and industrial laser processes. These include laser cutting, carving, drilling, welding and soldering as well as surface treatment, micro processing and rapid manufacturing. Furthermore, Fraunhofer ILT is engaged in laser plant technology, process control, modelling and simulation as well as in the entire systems technology. We offer feasibility studies, process qualification and laser integration in customer-specific manufacturing lines. Fraunhofer ILT is part of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, which with its 67 institutes, 24,000 employees and an annual research budget of more than 2.1 billion euros counts among Germany's most important research institutions.
http://www.ilt.fraunhofer.de

ante4C GmbH
ante4C GmbH is a project company with participation of Landmarken AG (Aachen). With a project budget around 360 million euros, Landmarken AG is one of the largest project developers in North Rhine-Westphalia and the largest project developer in the Aachen metropolitan area. ante4C GmbH was the first investor on RWTH Aachen Campus for the Smart Logistics Cluster, which was successfully completed in the fourth quarter of 2013.
http://www.ante4c.com

Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF)
Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF) has six offices in New York, London, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul, and Abu Dhabi, and is one of the world's most renowned architectural firms. KPF specializes in architecture, interior design and master planning for public as well as private clients.
http://www.kpf.com

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