

U.S. MEDIA CONTACT:

Joe McGehee
312-850-8201
312-829-3255 fax
jmcgehee@yourthoughtpartner.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World's Leading Trade Show for Optical Technologies Opens in June 2005
*LASER.World of Photonics 2005 Gathers World Leaders from the
International Light Community*

Chicago, March 15, 2005 – LASER.World of Photonics, the world's leading trade show for optical technologies, will be held June 13-16, 2005, in Munich, Germany. Photonics specialists from around the world will present photonics applications and components to an international audience expected to be considerably larger than the previous show in 2003.

With a full range of exhibits and a comprehensive program of accompanying events, including the "World of Photonics Congress," LASER.World of Photonics attracts strong participation from the U.S., U.K., France, Switzerland, Italy, China and Canada. There will be joint exhibit stands for U.S. exhibitors and two joint stands from Canada, which are divided into companies based in Quebec and Ontario.

The LASER.World of Photonics 2005 exhibitions are divided into two major categories to help visitors and exhibitors maximize time and business connections: the "Innovative Photonics, Marketable Products" segment focuses on photonics components, while the "Industrial Applications, Complete System Solutions" segment displays photonics applications. The following segments will be featured:

"Innovative Photonics, Marketable Products"

- Lasers and optronics
- Optics
- Sensors, measuring and testing technology
- Optical manufacturing technology
- Services

"Industrial Applications, Complete System Solutions"

- Optical systems by sectors
- Production engineering
- Optical measuring systems
- Laser medical technology
- Imaging
- Illumination

"LASER.World of Photonics is the most important global meeting place for the photonics sector and its professionals from the industrial and scientific communities," said Klaus Dittrich, Managing Director for Messe München International. "This event is an integral part of the industry's innovative process. LASER.World of Photonics offers an attractive global platform for companies to demonstrate and promote technical progress while sharing knowledge with their peers."

"World of Photonics Congress"

The "World of Photonics Congress," accompanying the trade show, will be held June 12-17 in the International Congress Center, Munich. At the 2003 Congress, more than 2,200 participants took part in 45 conferences and 1,300 lectures. The Congress was truly an international event, as 67 percent of participants came from outside of Germany.

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Scientists and industry experts will introduce and discuss the latest developments and applications in the photonics field to further enhance the show's application-based focus. U.S. organizations taking part in this year's Congress include: The Optical Society of America (OSA), IEEE Laser and Electro-Optics Society (IEEE/LEOS) and the International Society for Optical Engineering (SPIE).

The major event at this year's Congress is the CLEO EUROPE/EQEC Conference (organized by the European Physical Society Quantum Electronics and Optics Division, OSA, IEEE/LEOS). Other sessions include:

- The European Conference on Biomedical Optics (organized by SPIE and OSA)
- Optical Metrology (organized by SPIE)
- Lasers in Manufacturing (organized by the German Scientific Laser Society)
- Conference on Industrial Imaging and Machine Vision (organized by the European Optical Society)

Along with an increased focus on research and the latest trends, the "World of Photonics Congress" will have its own Internet portal with presentation topics, abstracts, speakers' biographies and a variety of news services. New funding from Germany's Federal Ministry for Education and Research will allow future Congresses to expand and become Europe's leading congress for optical technologies.

Accompanying Events Program

During LASER.World of Photonics, the Munich International Congress Center will play host to several related events, making the show a true hub for photonics industry information. Conferences, lectures and poster presentations represent just a few of the events taking place with LASER.World of Photonics. FiberComm, a conference devoted exclusively to optical information and communications technology, will also be featured concurrently in its second year.

For more information about LASER.World of Photonics, visit www.global-electronics.net/laser. For more information on the "World of Photonics Congress," visit www.global-electronics.net/id/3650201.

Those wishing to exhibit at LASER.World of Photonics can contact Mira Ebmeier at 646-437-1013.

About LASER.World of Photonics and "Global Electronics"

LASER.World of Photonics is the world's leading trade show for optical technologies. Munich Trade Fairs International (MMI) organizes this event as part of its "Global electronics" network, which includes trade shows around the world and an Internet portal.

The electronica, Productronica, and LASER.World of Photonics events – which are the world's leading trade shows in their relevant industry sectors – present the major international trends at MMI's location in Munich, Germany. The leading regional trade shows componex/electronicIndia, electronicAsia, electronica & Productronica China, and electronicAmericas build upon the expertise gained in the Munich-based events and open up the electronics markets of the future.

The Internet portal www.global-electronics.net is an online platform for the international electronics industry. At its core is a company index containing more than 6,500 registered international companies from all segments of the electronics industry. Beyond this, the portal offers up-to-date industry news and market data, product innovations and application reports directly from the industry, as well as information on the trade shows.

"Global electronics" is a powerful network with over 6,500 exhibitors and more than a quarter of a million attendees worldwide.

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At A Glance

LASER 2005.World of Photonics

- WHEN:** June 13-16, 2005
Monday-Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- WHERE:** New Munich Trade Fair Centre
Munich, Germany
- WHAT:** Largest global trade show for laser technology. More than 20,000 visitors and 900 exhibitors. Held in conjunction with the "World of Photonics Congress" and FiberComm.
- VISITORS:** Representatives from industrial manufacturing, science and research, optics and precision mechanics, electrical engineering and electronics, automotive, retail, mechanical engineering, metal processing, aerospace, medical technology and chemical industries.
- EXHIBITORS:** Those interested in exhibiting can call Mira Ebmeier at 646-437-1013.
- INFORMATION:** www.global-electronics.net/laser

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Media can contact Joe McGehee at 312-850-8201 for more information about LASER.World of Photonics. Digital photos available upon request.

For more information in Canada, please contact:

Munich Trade Fairs Canada
Canada Unlimited, Inc.
1243 Islington Ave., Suite 607
Toronto, Ont. M8X 1Y9
Telephone: 416-237-9939
Fax: 416-237-9920
e-mail: bmertens@canada-unlimited.com
Website: www.canada-unlimited.com