

# THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

## FLAGSHIP PHOTONICS INITIATIVE

In 2000, CUNY, already a major force in the photonics field by virtue of its research track record and faculty base, established a flagship Photonics Initiative to position itself to become one of the nation's foremost photonics powerhouses. Part of CUNY's 2000-2004 Master Plan, the Photonics Initiative aims to bring CUNY into the highest ranks of university photonics research nationally and internationally through cluster hiring of new faculty, development of new facilities, and expansion of educational opportunities in photonics.

The mission of the CUNY Photonics Initiative is:

- To establish CUNY as one of the foremost photonics research institutions in the U.S. by attracting top-quality researchers to complement and strengthen our existing capabilities;
- To establish CUNY as a premier national resource for multidisciplinary applications of photonics;
- To develop a top-notch graduate-level multidisciplinary photonics education program, in cooperation with appropriate science and engineering departments, providing students with academic and industrial research opportunities;
- To support economic development in New York State, the region and the nation through technology transfer, commercialization agreements, start-ups, spin-offs and business incubator and accelerator facilities.

The Photonics Initiative builds on CUNY's existing strengths. CUNY is home to the Center for Advanced Technology (CAT) in Ultrafast Photonics, a multi-campus center that uses state and industry funds to advance photonics research and create positive economic impact. City College houses the Institute for Ultrafast Spectroscopy and Lasers (IUSL) and was recently designated the site of the NASA University Research Center for Optical Sensing and Imaging (COSI). Over 50 CUNY full-time faculty members are engaged in significant photonics research.

Fifteen new faculty positions are to be created throughout the university – of which eight positions have been filled to date. Campuses were targeted for new faculty in specific areas of expertise that build on and expand existing strengths: Brooklyn College in nanotechnology; City College in biomedical optical imaging, MEMS, laser development and design, optical communications and semiconductor materials; Hunter College in quantum computing and biophotonics; Queens College in photonic bandgap materials; and the College of Staten Island in optical polymer materials.

The Master Plan also calls for the development of a Photonics Facility and Compact Device Center at City College to house laboratories for device fabrication, a clean room, and material processing, as well as laboratories and offices for existing and new photonics faculty, and the photonics educational program. Also planned is a Photonics Incubator/Accelerator to be located at City College, to provide space, technical expertise and research facilities for up to fifteen small and start-up companies in the photonics industry seeking to expand their operations. Together, these facilities will provide a focal point for photonics activities throughout CUNY.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: PROF. ROBERT R. ALFANO AT 212-650-5531 OR RALFANO@CCNY.CUNY.EDU; OR ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY DEAN FOR RESEARCH GILLIAN SMALL AT 212-794-5417 OR GILLIAN.SMALL@MAIL.CUNY.EDU**