










APOMA GENERAL MEETING FEB 1, 2023
InterContinental Hotel San Francisco






The APOMA (American Precision Optics Manufacturing Association) held its general meeting during Photonics West 2023 in San Francisco at the InterContinental Hotel Wednesday, Feb 1st. The event celebrated the contributions and leadership of APOMA president Mike Mandina (President, Optimax Systems, Inc.) as the organization transitioned to the new president Lee Steneken (CEO, Esco Optics). The first act of business President Steneken's term was to vote on new board members for 2023.

BOARD MEMBERS 2023

				
Lee Steneken President ESCO OPTICS	Travis Green President-Elect ALPINE RESEARCH OPTICS/PFG OPTICS	Mike Mandina Past-President OPTIMAX SYSTEMS	Dave Mohring Treasurer OPTIPRO	Zach Hobbs Secretary SYDOR OPTICS
				
Dr. Alexis Vogt Academic Member MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Shai Shafir At-Large Member CORNING	Navid Entezarian At-Large Member THORLABS	Justin Mahanna At-Large Member UNIVERSAL PHOTONICS	

The mission of APOMA is to connect and share critical topics that are facing optical manufacturers and related fields. Three guest speakers were invited to share their thoughts on their respective specialties. **Dr. Alexis Vogt**, Executive Director of Workforce and Higher Education at **AmeriCOM**, shared insights on cultivating a new pipeline for manufacturing talent through the optics manufacturing technician apprenticeship program. The program is a crucial piece in allowing employers to find and train optical technicians while having the flexibility to cater to individual company needs.

On December 5th, 2022 the National Ignition Facility (NIF) at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL) created a monumental breakthrough for mankind with the first-ever fusion ignition. The NIF achievement is defined by 3.15MJ of fusion output for 2.05MJ laser delivered. **Dr. Tayyab Suratwala**, Program Director for Optics and Materials Science & Technology at LLNL, shared details of the fusion shot, and the multi-decade research and development partnership with optical manufacturers that was an enabler for the fusion ignition. This tremendous achievement was years in the making and the fusion shot was made possible by

	3,072	Amplifier slabs
	1,600	Mirrors and polarizers
	1,728	Windows and lenses
	576	Crystals
	192	Debris Shields

Dr. Suratwala emphasized though this breakthrough took more than a decade of running NIF. “What is even more fascinating is what’s to come.” Now that ignition has been achieved the team at LLNL has large goals ahead of them and more history is set to be made.

The CHIPS and Science Act is a major investment in U.S. semiconductor production and **Dr. Kent Rochford**, President of SPIE shared more information on what this act means for optics and photonics manufacturers. The Semiconductor incentive program authorizes \$39 billion to be allocated over 5 years. The program includes upstream suppliers of semiconductor manufacturing equipment and materials. Ensures consideration of a broad range of semiconductors. Includes \$2 billion in financial

incentives for the manufacturing of mature technology nodes, with priority for critical manufacturing industries such as the automotive industry.

The CHIPS and Science Act will create a collaborative network for semiconductor research and innovation to enable long-term U.S. leadership in the industries of the future. It will foster regional clusters of manufacturers, suppliers, research, and workforce programs, along with supporting infrastructure, which will be the foundation for a competitive industry. Organizations like SPIE and APOMA are here to help continue advocacy with our government for investments in optics and photonics.

