

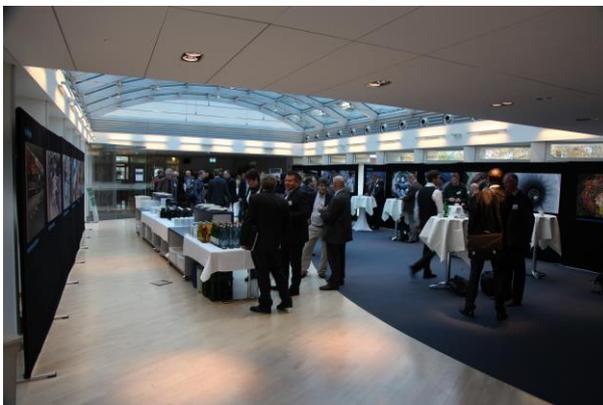


PRESSRELEASE

Exploring the European Dimension of Leading High Energy Laser Technologies

“Laser technologies have great potential for future applications. Compact particle accelerators and accelerator technologies are used in producing X-rays for medical applications as well as particle beams for medical therapies. In the future, new material processing technologies for hardening of components and making them resistant to fatigue will be based on them.”

This is what Professor Franz Kaertner, a leading scientist of the Center for Free-Electron Laser Science at DESY (Deutsches Elektronen Synchrotron) and the Department of Physics at the University of Hamburg, stated at the end of the two-day Academia-Industry Matching Event (AIME) organized jointly by HEPTech and the Network member DESY.



The event dedicated to high energy lasers took place 12-13 November 2014, in Hamburg, Germany and was attended by more than 100 participants – representatives of leading European research institutions and companies active in the field of laser technologies.

DESY organizes several similar events per year, but this was the first one held jointly with HEPTech.

“The benefit of having HEPTech as a co-organizer of the AIME was clearly the European perspective”, says Katja Kroschewski, Head of Technology Transfer at DESY. “To have speakers from various countries enlarged the horizon of the event and we can proudly say that we covered the field across Europe. It was different from doing a local event – for instance having companies only from Hamburg or just with the focus on Germany. As the research work concerned has an international scope, it absolutely makes sense to organize such events. It was good to have the input of

HEPTech in shaping the programme of the event and to have the Network's support within the organizing committee as well."

How does the same situation look through the eyes of HEPTech Network coordinator Ian Tracey?



"This particular event we organized in Germany, but each of our members would approach their local contacts to bring companies across. From the UK we ended up with some good academic institutions and then from other countries we had good businesses. So, we got much better reach.

Furthermore, we are learning to use standard processes which makes it easier for our members to organize an event. We use the same sort of registration page, the same sort of information documentation, the same sort of exit survey. All these reduce the organizational costs for our members".

Another interesting aspect is how the topic of this particular event was chosen. Is there any standardized negotiating procedure between the Network and its members regarding the topics and scope of the AIMEs?

Ian Tracey, "The topics of the events are driven by the technologies we have – very much a push model, on the one hand. On the other hand, they are the results of the mutual effort between the Network and its members where the members have the biggest say because they put a lot of effort".

The biggest say of the Technology Transfer Office at DESY was based firstly on their observations that recently there was a lot going on in the field of high energy and high average power lasers and secondly, with the aim to connect the players in this specific area thus fulfilling their role as mediators in the technology transfer process.

"The people come to the AIMEs to see what kind of technology is already available and those who develop that technology see what is actually needed. At this event dedicated to high average power and high energy laser technologies, some leading manufacturers of systems and some research institutions have presented what they were planning to do and also have seen the need of industry, so they could understand what the new lasers could actually solve in a better way", says Prof Kaertner. He sees numerous potential collaborations between laser manufacturers and

laser users as well as applications in advanced research that also need new laser systems which do not exist yet.

Katja Kroschewski expects a similar impact but she also refers to the benefits for DESY's two spin-off initiatives in this field. "For them it was also good to see what the more established companies were doing. So, I see co-operations both for the scientists and for the spin-offs."



Ian Tracey believes that a single meeting between the right people from academia and industry is only the first step in the long process for initiating a co-operation. Therefore, the Network should provide an environment for regular repetitive contact for similar people to finally establish a project. To address this

need, HEPTEch looks at increasing the number of the AIMEs from initially four up to eight events per year.

And the twenty Network members will take their turns in giving European dimension to academia-industry co-operation.