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<b>Voluntary contributors:</b>	N/A
<b>Abstract:</b>	This deliverable drafts a set of ideas and impressions about a possible continuation of the ACCORD-project
<b>Keyword list:</b>	Photonic components, Optical components, negotiation of contracts and component fabrication.



## Disclaimer

*The information, documentation and figures available in this deliverable, is written by the ACCORD (“Advanced Components Cooperation for Optoelectronics Research and Development) – project consortium under EC co-financing contract FP6-IST-034041 and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission*



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## 1. Executive Summary

This deliverable D6.2 gives an overview of some ideas and impressions about the possible continuation of the ACCORD-project.

This builds on Deliverable D6.1 which includes a report on the event organised at ICT Lyon 2008, a set of testimonials of the partners involved in the ACCORD-projects, a survey conducted amongst the ACCORD-participating groups and suppliers and the initial preparation of a possible continuation plan.



## 2. NEXPRESSO: Finding a self-sustaining funding model

### 2.1 Rationale

NEXPRESSO stands for: **N**etwork for **EX**change and **PR**ototype **E**valuation of **Ph**otonic**S** **C**omponent**S** and **O**ptical systems.

We proposed a networking session at the 2008 ICT Conference in Lyon to discuss the funding model for continuing ACCORD. We sent personal letters of invitation to all the national contact point persons for ICT.

The FP-6 project ACCORD implements the exchange of photonics components between manufacturers and universities at no net cost to either side. The ACCORD project is generating evidence of both the need for and the value of such an exchange programme.

The objective of the NEXPRESSO networking session is to think and talk about the different ways such a program can find a self-sustaining model for funding and developing this exchange platform between manufacturers, universities and end-users.

### 2.2 Agenda: Nexpresso Networking Meeting at ICT 2008

Date: 26 November 2008

Time: 11h00 to 12h30

#### 11h00 – 11h20: Presentation:

Introduction to the ACCORD project

- How ACCORD fills a gap in R&D funding
- Support for SMEs: bringing prototypes to market, recruiting employees
- Awards of components and equipment
- Relationship to programs in the US

Objectives of the Networking Session

Response to questionnaire

2-way discussion of models to develop self-sustaining funding

Developing a contact list

#### 11h20 - 11h30: Discussion following the Interactive Survey

#### 11h30 - 12h15: Funding models

Example 1: 0% from Commission, 50% from local / national authorities

Example 2: Commission contributes administrative expenses. Local funding used to buy equipment. Locals pay only when the award is within their boundary.

Discussion:

- Not all countries/regions will participate: How to create incentives for those that do participate?
- If Commission funds are involved, then all applicants are eligible, even if their country/region does not contribute matching funds.
- Amount would be less than 20K per country/region per year

#### 12h15 – 12h30: Wrap-up

Key agencies and persons to contact

The meeting held to the agenda and the schedule. There were 10 participants and 4 ACCORD project members who participated.



## 2.3 Results

The following gives a summary of discussions concerning specific questions in the NEXPRESSO interactive survey

### A) Should we limit the working area to photonics or might we include complementary fields as opto-mechanics, nanotechnologies, etc?

Remarks:

- Broaden to more fields because SMEs are typically working in cross-disciplinary activities
- You need more data. What is the potential is you enlarge scope to a broader arena?
- Interest in bringing SME closer to R&D. Photonics is a multi-disciplinary activity you should include components and systems, too.
- Push cross-border cooperation. International cooperation should be a goal – think about enhancing mobility.
- You should not go too far on subject matter. You could include devices with photonics inside
- Care must be taken with the international cooperation for this program: It must be supported but it must not be an obligation. Examples can be seen with some countries that have no photonic industry that will look for international collaboration for their universities. This case can not be implemented exactly for countries as Germany where they have universities and industries that work already on photonics, for some projects they will not look for international collaborations as they have all the resources.
- Broaden to more fields has to be implemented slowly and naturally. The program for photonics has to become sustainable before trying to add completely new technologies or sciences on it.

### B) How can we best sell this exchange platform to regional or national authorities?

- Situation is not easy – need to look at each region individually. There are good practices already working. Find these practices and start here. N°1 show these examples, adopt this model, etc.
- Clusters on photonics in UK were cited, explaining some services offered to members. Focus on clusters with government support. In Belgium, Multitel is the cluster, PCUK, CNOP in France.
- Is there some way to leverage off venture capital investors in SMES?
- Employment is the key. How many jobs are created? You need data. Training might be a secondary appeal in an economic downturn. Contribution to training cost for SMEs. There was a significant discussion on this point.
- Try to prove profit to the region
- Selling this program has to take account of cultural and economical differences in the European countries and regions.

### C) Contacts to make:

- **Poland:** there are few SMEs, start with universities
- **Belgium:** Ministry of Research and Technology. However, there are elections in June, and these will have an impact on funding. Suggested to contact mirror-group member in Flemish region. This is Hugo Thienpont.
- **Romania:** Many basic infrastructure needs, like roads. Photonics is far down on the list. As in Poland, focus on universities. Stick to fundamental science rather than applications. Maybe too early for an ACCORD-type program.
- **Greece:** Mentioned the EuroFos program on photonic systems. Greece is in the 4<sup>th</sup> European program for Greek development. Photonics is not a priority. Stavros Pissavakis of FORTH is the mirror-group contact
- In each country you have institutions that pay for the basic/applied research. Some contacts with these institutions must be done as the Nexpresso program can be complementary to what they already do.





**D) Based on the discussion we had for the former questions, what could be a possible funding model for the programme?**

50% matching funds from the Commission, 50% investment from local/national authorities for components manufactured in the region or country.

or

Commission contributes administrative expenses. Local funding used to buy equipment. (Locals pay only when the award is within their boundary).

- **UK:** go to the venture capital community as a business promotion model. Make a proposal. Cite the 1 laptop per child program
- **France:** the second model could work: that is locals pay only when there is an award within their boundary.
- **Poland:** basic infrastructure is a big priority. Arguments must be clear and justified for such countries to focus on Accord-like programs
- **Local regions:** make an award if either a university or SME is involved. Show additional return over direct subsidy. The negotiated price is a selling point since this saves money.

We examined the possibility to “match” local funds with commission funds, showing a lever effect. However the commission does not allow this in a project. Any outside funding reduces the commission contribution.

We discussed the Capacities program. In this idea universities perform R&D for groups of SMEs.

Conclusion: Example 1 will probably not work. You really need to aim at something like a Europractice program where the Commission contributes administrative costs, but the exchange would be financed locally.

**Contacts made:**

Leslek J. Golonka  
Prof. of Microelectronics  
Wroclaw University of Technology

Krzysztof Trojanowski  
National Contact Point EU Programmes  
Zwirki i Wigury 81, 02-091, Warsaw Poland

Dr. Dan Dascalu  
CEO National Institute for R&D in Microtechnologies  
126A Erou Iancu Nicolae Str.  
R-077190 Bucharest, Romania

Michael Parker  
University of Essex  
Dept of Computing and Electronic Systems  
Colchester UK

Prof. Franco Davoli  
Dipartimento Informatica  
Universita di Genova  
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Universita di Pavia  
Vai Ferrata 1  
27100 Pavia, Italy

Stéphane Waha  
National Contact Point Wallonie - Union Wallon des Entreprises  
Chemin du Stockoy 3  
B-1300 Wavre Belgium





### 3. The ACCORD Project: what has been accomplished; what has been learned

During the past few years, the ACCORD-project has learned several things:

#### Prototype components

SMEs are eager to propose prototype components. The calls for prototypes were always oversubscribed.

#### University proposals for R&D

University researchers responded with proposals which could be evaluated and ranked. The rate of success was about 50%.

#### Negotiation on price

A prototype component by definition is not being marketed, and so there is not “fair market price”. The prototype price is negotiated on the basis of cost and the perceived value of the R&D proposed by the university. During ACCORD we have developed and tested rules and practices for arriving at purchase price for components. In the case of some systems, some parts and associated software have been made available on loan for the duration of the project. We have built up a library of actions and responses that enabled 12 projects to be fully funded within the restrictions of the budget granted the ACCORD project.

#### Evaluation Agreements

The SME furnishing the prototype and the university receiving the prototype sign agreements concerning their responsibilities, such as functional prototypes, reporting, and intellectual property rights. In the ACCORD project, we discovered that these agreement forms are burdensome, and delay the start-up of the cooperative R&D activity.

In NEXPRESSO we will develop an agreement procedure that is simpler to execute, taking less time, but which is just as effective.

#### Supervision of Research

The project team supervises the research to assure that milestones and deadlines are being met. The ACCORD project shows that this supervision is a key element to the success of the program. However, reporting requirements need to be more flexible, according to the type of R&D being carried out.

In NEXPRESSO we will experiment with different kinds of reporting requirements in order to improve R&D productivity.

#### Documentation of Benefits

Both SMEs and universities are happy to share their experiences. Their feedback is an essential part of improving the program.



## 4. Testimonials

A set of testimonials, both from current ACCORD-partners and from new interested parties are included in Annex 1 and are taken from the NEXPRESSO-initiative and proposal which has been submitted to FP7-Call 5.

These testimonials indicate a strong interest in the NEXPRESSO-idea



## 5. Feedback on the value and success of the ACCORD-project

### 5.1 Basic ACCORD Strategy

The ACCORD project was based on:

- 1) Call for Components
- 2) Call for R&D proposals based on the proposed components
- 3) Evaluation & Selection of the R&D Proposals
- 4) Supervision of the R&D Proposals.

### 5.2 New ideas

Out of the information gathered, some new ideas have popped up:

1. Responding to requests from university R&D groups for prototype components, designed and fabricated to advance their research.
2. Implementing prototype evaluations involving researchers, SMEs and End-users.
3. Working with specific regional development agencies to develop parameters for a sustainable photonics components exchange programme.
4. Designing a better and simpler procedure for negotiation of an agreement between SME and university, implementing the launch of the exchange in one-half the time.
5. Design of a Europractice programme to implement access to services like a photonics foundry.

### 5.3 Possible NEXPRESSO-strategy

Step 1 NEXPRESSO opens a call for prototype components. Universities may request components needed for R&D, SMEs can propose prototype components for study by university R&D teams.

Step 2 NEXPRESSO organises and presents these requests on the project website.

Step 3 An SME can respond to a university request by a proposal to furnish a component for the university R&D programme

or

A university can respond by proposing to characterize a component proposed by an SME.

Step 4 NEXPRESSO forms the cooperation team and formalizes the collaboration agreement so that there are milestones to track R&D progress and results.

Step 5 NEXPRESSO orders and pays for the component according to the terms of the agreement worked out in step 4, arranging for shipment to the university.

Step 6 NEXPRESSO monitors progress to assure that the terms of the agreement are met.

These steps are summarized in Figure 4.



## 6. Overall Strategy for a possible continuation

### 6.1 Basic ACCORD Strategy

The ACCORD project was based on:

- 5) Call for Components
- 6) Call for R&D proposals based on the proposed components
- 7) Evaluation & Selection of the R&D Proposals
- 8) Supervision of the R&D Proposals.

### 6.2 New ideas

Out of the information gathered, some new ideas have popped up:

6. Responding to requests from university R&D groups for prototype components, designed and fabricated to advance their research.
7. Implementing prototype evaluations involving researchers, SMEs and End-users.
8. Working with specific regional development agencies to develop parameters for a sustainable photonics components exchange programme.
9. Designing a better and simpler procedure for negotiation of an agreement between SME and university, implementing the launch of the exchange in one-half the time.
10. Design of a Europractice programme to implement access to services like a photonics foundry.

### 6.3 Possible NEXPRESSO-strategy

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Step 3 An SME can respond to a university request by a proposal to furnish a component for the university R&D programme

or

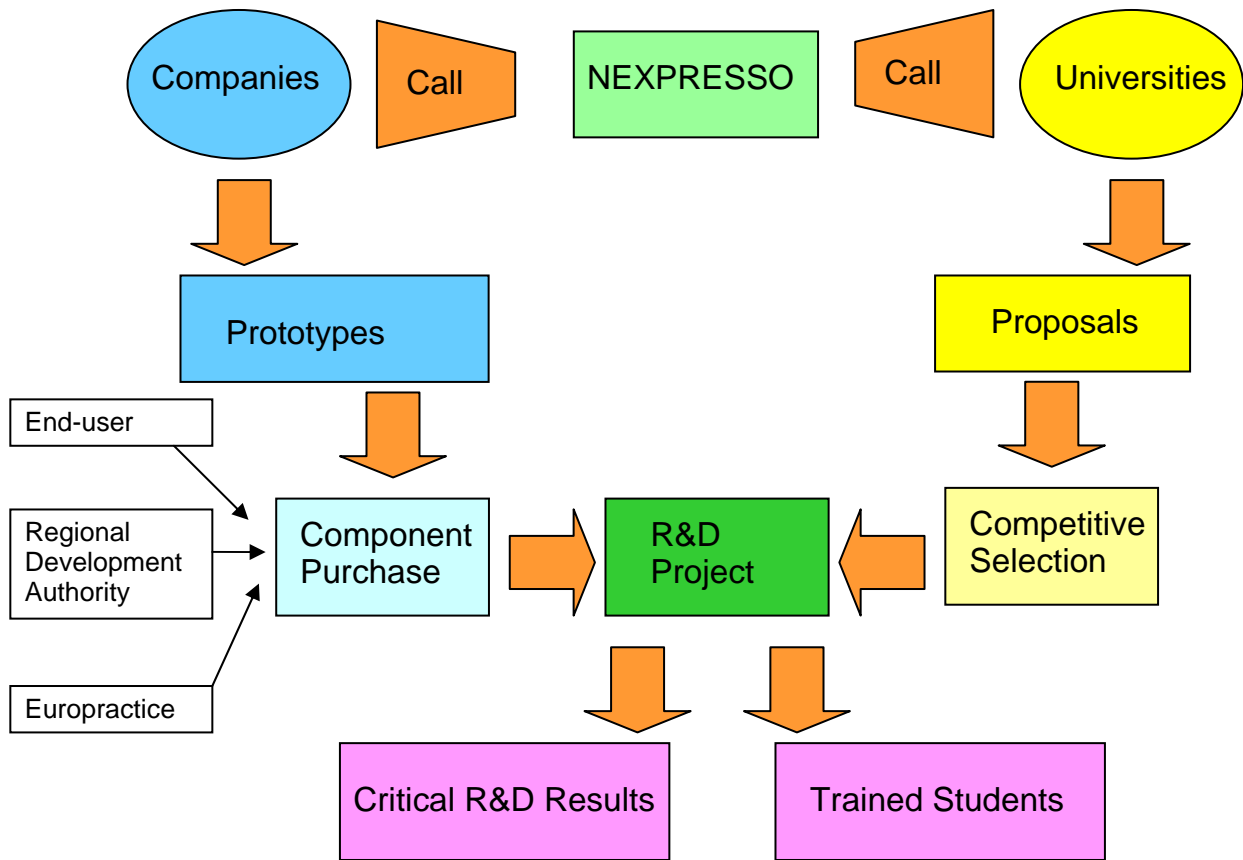
A university can respond by proposing to characterize a component proposed by an SME.

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Step 5 NEXPRESSO orders and pays for the component according to the terms of the agreement worked out in step 4, arranging for shipment to the university.

Step 6 NEXPRESSO monitors progress to assure that the terms of the agreement are met.

These steps are summarized in Figure 4.



*Figure 4: This is a schematic flow-chart of the component exchange activity of the NEXPRESSO project. Customers, regional development authorities, and Europractice may contribute resources to implement component purchases. During the project, these resources will come from the European Commission funding via the project budget.*



## 7. Conclusions

This deliverable D6.1 is a first draft on the possible continuation of the ACCORD-project. An idea was launched, called “NEXPRESSO” and this was discussed at the occasion of ICT Lyon 2008.

A proposal for a continuation of the ACCORD-project was submitted in FP7-Call 5. Out of the preparation of this proposal, several new ideas popped up which will now be integrated in some suggestions.

The testimonials collected at the occasion of the preparation of the NEXPRESSO-proposal indicate the strong interest in the idea, but the crucial issue remains the funding of the system and, if no European funding can be received, possible sources may be regional development agencies, national programmes or industrial support. However all of these funding mechanisms are expected to create difficulties to fund cross-border projects.



## Annex 1: Testimonials



University of St Andrews

School of Physics and Astronomy  
Head of School: Professor Stephen L Lee

Professor Kishan Dholakia  
Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh  
25 May 2009

Dear Chris

I am writing with regard to our recent ACCORD award jointly with Lovalite to explore fibre tips for applications in Biophotonics. I thought this was an innovative and important grant that allowed real dialogue and interaction between academia and industry in manner that would not have been possible otherwise. We made steps in our particular project towards using fibres in biophotonics and gained a lot of relevant experience. I fully support continuation of this important funding route

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

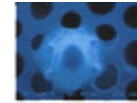
Sincerely

Professor Kishan Dholakia, OSA fellow, SPIE fellow  
School of Physics and Astronomy  
University of St Andrews



**LovaLite \***

*Concepteur d'une nouvelle generation de composants micro optiques*



**Chris Gracie**  
**Scottish Optoelectronics Association**  
**Geddes House, Kirkton North**  
**Livingston EH54 6GU UK**

Dear Chris,

The ACCORD program has been for LovaLite a very valuable way to get in touch with various academic projects in Europe that would not have otherwise interacted with us.

The development of prototypes for University of St Andrews has led us to push our capabilities and extend our connections to new application domains.

The ability to realize prototypes at an early stage is a very important step forward in building more effective path from idea to business opportunities.

This funding scheme provided through ACCORD was missing in previous programs and can save a lot of money and effort at later stages.

Best regards,

**Brahim DAHMANI**  
LovaLite President

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Institutsdirektor

Jena, den 10. September 2009

### Testimonial Letter on the ACCORD programme

To whom this may concern

Dear Sir or Madame,

It is a great pleasure to write this letter highlighting the importance of the ACCORD programme. My research at the Institute for Physical Chemistry at the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena and the Institute of Photonic Technology focuses on advancing optical spectroscopy in the fields of biophotonics and material photonics. In doing so, we are concerned with both fundamental research about light-matter interactions as well as technological developments, e.g. in CARS (coherent anti-Stokes Raman scattering) microscopy.

In the latter research field, we are honoured to be supported by the ACCORD consortium, which provides us with the acousto-optical programmable dispersive filter of the company, DAZZLER, of the company FASTLITE. Having access to this high end prototypic device enables us to perform research, which would otherwise be impossible to arrange. Thus, it is my strong belief that the European science and technology community strongly benefits from the ACCORD programme as being an excellent mediator between scientific groups and high-tech companies. Thereby, not only benefit for science within the European Union is generated but also for companies, who can have novel devices evaluated in a realistic research environment by potential end users of their products.

Aside from its outstanding scientific and technological impact, the ACCORD programme has to be complimented for being run extremely efficiently and professionally. The interactions with the representative of the network, Mr. Denis Tregouat, have been uncomplicated, focussed and extraordinarily efficient. The same holds true for the application process. The administration of the ACCORD programme avoids unnecessary bureaucracy, focuses on the relevant details and – in summary – is a pleasure to deal with.

I strongly believe that the European Union will benefit from a continuation of the ACCORD programme within the 7th Framework. For our research group and continued collaboration with ACCORD or its offspring on selected topics will most certainly be extremely beneficial and highly desired.

Best regards,



Jürgen Popp



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45 rue CROULEBARBE  
75013 PARIS  
France  
[www.fastlite.com](http://www.fastlite.com)

Subject : NEXPRESSO (Network for EXchanges and PRototype Evaluation of photonicS componentS and Optical systems)

Expression of interest

Dear Prof. Van Daele,

Fastlite is keen to express its interest in your project proposal NEXPRESSO that aims to the creation of a sustainable network for the access by University researchers to photonic component and system prototypes.

As an SME involved in Photonic based scientific instrumentation and participant of the ACCORD project, Fastlite is at the forefront of potential collaboration between Universities and small industrial partners.

Fastlite considers of primary importance the opportunity of developing component or system prototypes, at no financial risk to the Company or to the University, that will further be evaluated by University researchers within the frame of new applications.

Such evaluations constitute valuable feedback information fueling any strategic decision concerning product developments and/or introduction.

Fastlite also views NEXPRESSO as an efficient project for easing and strenghtening the relationship between Universities and Small business companies, relationship which is essential to the quality of our own research and development.

For the above reasons, Fastlite strongly supports the NEXPRESSO initiative.

Best regards,

Daniel Kaplan

Director

Member of the French Academy of Sciences

**SOCIETE FASTLITE**  
45-47, rue Croulebarbe  
75013 PARIS



Valencia, 17th September 2009

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

I am Salvador Sales, Professor at the Telecommunications Faculty in the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain. I was involved in an Accord Project in its First Call. My experience was very satisfactory. We obtained access to very advanced photonic devices. Three of my students joined the project and they were trained with these new devices. Some of the knowledge acquired during the project has been published in an IEEE publication and also has been used to claim for funds in National and European Research Projects.

I fully recommend the new proposal of NEXPRESSO (Network for EXchange and PRototype Evaluation of photonicS componentS and Optical systems).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Sales'.

Prof. Salvador Sales  
Universidad Politécnica de Valencia  
Valencia, Spain



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[www.ciphotonics.com](http://www.ciphotonics.com)

21 October 2009

Dear Tom,

The Accord project has provided CIP with the opportunity to gather early measurement data from three prototype optoelectronic devices within new RF applications developed by Universidad Politecnica De Valencia (UPV). It is unlikely that we would have identified the relevant device parameters for UPV's specific radio-on-fibre applications without the collaboration. Furthermore, because UPV has extensive experience in RF/optical measurements it was much more effective to collaborate rather than for CIP to duplicate the same set of experiments to assess the suitability of these devices for their application.

One particularly useful output from the CIP perspective has been the independent measurements which have been made on the two types of electro-absorption modulator we supplied. This data has been a contributor to the choice of a preferred design of reflective modulator we decided to further improve and develop. The optimised device that resulted has since started to generate early widespread commercial interest for both digital and analogue RF applications.

In summary, we see that the great value of the Accord project is to get early versions of devices into the hands of research groups who can help fill in gaps in our knowledge of the characteristics. Clearly, if things go really well then this greater understanding of the devices could lead to new speculative applications and possibly new markets in the longer term.

Best Regards

David W Smith

Chief Technology Officer



13 May 2009

Dear Chris,

I want to write to you to give you my feedback on our participation in the Accord project and specifically the project with Imagine Optic.

I think that the concept under which the Accord project operates is an extremely good one and I support it and would like to see it extended in scope, timescale and money.

It has allowed us access to an expensive device we would not have had otherwise. It has helped us build good links with the company who make the device which is always helpful. We have on going communication with them on designing the software to communicate with our system which is really useful. The two-way exchange of ideas is very valuable to us as well as to them.

I would like to see the Accord project extended to include a limited amount of travel between the two collaborating entities as face to face meetings pre and post use of the device would prove invaluable. We have had to pay for such meetings out of our own pocket.

The amount of money available per project is extremely small and doesn't allow for some of the more adventurous exchanges, which have the promise to be really important a company's future.

The paperwork is also overkill. Although this seems to be the norm for European projects! However, someone in the EU must realise that the level and frequency of paperwork required should match the amount of money provided!

However, as I said, a very worthwhile project, one that should be continued, albeit with a few tweaks.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Holt  
Chief Executive, Institute of Photonics, University of Strathclyde





Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Electronic Engineering and Physics

*Dr Edik U. Rafailov*  
Head of Photonics and Nanoscience Group

11<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**To Whom it may Concern**

Dear ACCORD Partnership

The Photonics and Nanoscience Group from University of Dundee, Scotland were fortunate to secure an award under the third call for R&D proposals. My team had identified on the ACCORD web site an offer of component supply from the company Conerefringent Optics of Spain. The components claimed to exhibit some exciting characteristics which might provide simplicity and flexibility in laser resonator design. We have now experimented with the Conerefringent components in various configurations of laser layout and have produced results which we believe will introduce major improvements to laser characteristics. This is revolutionary work which we are reporting in academic papers and presenting at international conferences and which we would not have undertaken in the absence of ACCORD.

From our conversations with Conerefringent Optics we believe that our work has enhanced their knowledge of their product and revealed new opportunities.

It is our opinion that there would be similar advantages to other Universities and Companies if the ACCORD project were to be extended.

I would recommend your project without hesitation to colleagues and include ACCORD in acknowledgements in papers reporting our work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should there be any other aspects of our collaboration under ACCORD umbrella for which you would wish to have either additional information or further clarification.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Edik U. Rafailov



APONRGAQ

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the experimental program ACCORD. And I like to explain two reasons for this:

1. We are start-up company manufacturing crystal elements for conical refraction. Although known since long time, the conical refraction effect is practically forgotten today. That is why we decided to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> call of ACCORD as supplier of new photonics devices for the optical community. ***Being without any experience to participate in EU projects, we find soon interested partner whose proposal won.***
2. In a short time but with very intensive investigations our partner, the photonics group of Dr. Rafailov, obtained noteworthy results which constitute new kind of solid state laser – the conical refraction laser. Preliminary results were announced in the past CLEO (USA) conference and three scientific articles are under preparation. ***We already submitted two patents applications on conical refraction laser, a vital issue for our company.***

I am deeply convinced that the ACCORD's scheme of intermediation between companies and universities works successfully and should follow on in FP7.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Todor Kirilov  
Managing director of Conerefringent Optics SL

Vilanova i la Geltru, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009



Philippe Méthivier  
CEO EOLITE Systems

May 7, 2009

Dr. T. P. Pearsall  
EPIC  
17, rue de l'Amiral Hamelin  
75016 Paris

Re: ACCORD Project

EOLITE had the chance to participate in the program ACCORD, selling a prototype laser system at the University of Tampere. This project not only enabled us to obtain a first sale but gave rise to very rich exchange of results on the use of our system. It goes beyond the ACCORD project by lending equipment to the University of Tampere to explore other application areas. One might consider supplementing the program by funding not to purchase equipment for a lab but for the development of a demonstrator which would then be lent to various centres and laboratories for evaluation for periods of several months. The dissemination effect would be multiplied.

For a young Start-Up, such as EOLITE, developing a new laser technology requires timely and relevant feedback on the use and potential applications of this technology. The ACCORD program allowed us to fund such efforts with a European laboratory in an extremely flexible and responsive manner. This type of project seamlessly integrates upstream more ambitious collaborative projects and will test both our technologies and applications.

Best regards,

Philippe Méthivier  
CEO

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Prof. Peter Van Daele  
Coordinator of NEXPRESSO proposal  
Gent University  
Gaston Crommenlaan 8 (Bus 201)  
B-9050 Gent  
Belgium

Zürich, 20.10.2009

**Concerning:** NEXPRESSO (Network for EXchange and PRototype Evaluation of photonicS componentS and Optical systems)

Expression of interest

Dear Prof. Van Daele,

With this letter we would like to express our genuine interest in your project proposal NEXPRESSO that would enable to create a sustainable network for the access by university researchers to pre-competitive photonics components and systems and fabrication resources for realization of custom components.

In particular, as a company working in Photonics, Onefive is interested in facilitating the transfer of the university results back into the corporate world to gain early access about future applications, trends and new markets.

I would like to mention that in the past Onefive participated in ACCORD program and provided through this program a fibre laser component to ETH for a project on THz generation which is still under development. This certainly proves that the initiative was highly efficient in enabling mutually useful exchanges between Universities and SME.

Therefore we appreciate and strongly support your initiative because it provides us with a unique opportunity to leverage our research and development efforts.

Sincerely,

Best regards,  
Lukas Krainer  
CEO  
Onefive GmbH



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Prof. Peter Van Daele  
Coordinator of the NEXPRESSO Proposal  
Gent University  
Gaston Crommenlaan 8 (Bus 201)  
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Belgium

Birmingham, 19th October 2009

**Letter in Support of the Application by Gent University for a NEXPRESSO Project**

Dear Prof. Van Daele,

I am delighted to write in support of the application for a NEXPRESSO (Network for EXchange and PRototype Evaluation of photonicS componentS and Optical systems) project for the University of Gent.

The NEXPRESSO proposal is directly relevant to the research conducted in the Photonics Research Group at Aston University, as well as to the forward-looking work and R&D objectives of the Aston University's School of Engineering and Applied Science. Our School has a long-standing emphasis on engagement with industry, knowledge transfer activities and commercialisation of research.

The NEXPRESSO project would be an excellent route for the Photonics Group's researchers and students to access state-of-art, pre-commercial photonic technology and derive tangible benefits from this access. Indeed, it would further strengthen our links with industry, facilitate a transfer of our research outcomes for potential end-users in new applications and markets, and provide a good forum for placement of our graduate and post-graduate students.

Further, one of the main targets of our activity as a research group and an academic institution is to establish R&D cooperation with universities, industrial companies and research centres in Europe, and the NEXPRESSO project would be of great value to our business in this respect.

Your application for EU funding in this field has my strongest personal support.

Yours faithfully

*Sandra Rosales*



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Malonne 20-10-09

Concerning:

NEXPRESSO (Network for EXchange and PRototype Evaluation of photonics components and Optical systems)

Expression of interest

Dear Prof. Van Daele,

With this letter we would like to express our genuine interest in your project proposal NEXPRESSO that would enable to create a sustainable network for the access by university researchers to pre-competitive photonics components and systems and fabrication resources for realization of custom components.

In particular, LaserSpec develops frequency tunable lasers based on novel laser technologies and collaborates with university laboratories to apply these new tools to spectroscopic applications.

This process is illustrated by the invitation of Professor Fridgen to test the efficiency of different laser technologies (nanosecond OPO pump by Nd:YAG lasers and CW OPO pump by fiber lasers) on the IRMPD spectroscopy.

We appreciate and strongly support your initiative because we believe that accelerating the transfer of novel photonics and laser prototypes to potential users strongly benefits to the competitiveness of both the research laboratories and the photonics industry.

Sincerely yours,

Andre Peremans



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## Letter of support for NEXPRESSO

Dear Prof. Van Daele,

We hereby would like to express our interest and to support your project proposal NEXPRESSO (Network for EXchange and PRototype Evaluation of photonicS componentS and Optical systems).

As a company working in cutting edge technology, it is crucial for us that we have strong interaction with top-class researchers that push the envelope of existing technologies as well as act as first movers for establishing new technologies. Thereby a fruitful collaboration provides marketing for us. However, as the photonics industry is rather small it is therefore very important to strengthen the mobility of engineers within the area, which is provided by the project.

We appreciate and strongly support your initiative because it provides us with a unique opportunity to leverage our research and development effort by it facilitates our access to university researchers and thereby ensure that we keep track of the most recent advances in photonics.

Sincerely,

Lasse Leick  
Project manager  
NKT Photonics A/S