

Press Release

For Immediate Release
September 22, 2003
Tucson, AZ

NP Photonics and Chromux Announce Manufacturing and Distribution Partnership

NP Photonics (Tucson, AZ), and Chromux Technologies, Inc. (Oxnard, CA), today announced that the two companies have formed a manufacturing and distribution partnership. NP Photonics is a leading innovator of fiber-based products for sensing, telecommunications and research applications. Chromux is a premiere MEMS-based optical components and subsystem supplier serving the defense and telecommunication industries.

According to the agreement, Chromux will become the exclusive manufacturer of NP Photonics' Compliant MEMS (CMEMS) products. The CMEMS products include Tunable Filters, Optical Spectrum Analyzer (OSA) engines and Optical Performance Monitoring (OPM) modules. NP Photonics will retain the rights to these products and continue to sell them under the NP Photonics brand. The company will also continue to manufacture its Scorpio fiber lasers, fiber amplifiers and ASE sources at its Tucson, Arizona facility.

NP Photonics has also named Chromux as one of its Asian distributors. Chromux will market and distribute NP Photonics' CMEMS products in China and South Korea while NP Photonics will maintain its distribution channels in Japan, India, Europe and the United States.

"We see this as a long-term partnership that will help us improve upon our existing product lines and accelerate our outreach to Asia," said Daryl Eigen, senior VP of sales and marketing at NP Photonics. "The success of both our micro fiber products and our CMEMS products led us to a point where we needed to outsource the manufacturing of one of these technologies. Since our Tucson facility is geared for manufacturing fiber-based products, outsourcing the CMEMS manufacturing was the natural choice. We feel fortunate to have found a partner such as Chromux that has extensive experience with MEMS technologies and that can handle the volume production we foresee over the next several years."

Chromux will manufacture the CMEMS products at its 60,000-square-foot facility in Oxnard, California, which includes a 12,000-square-foot Class 100/1000 clean room. In addition to offering a variety of wafer fabrication and OEM manufacturing services,

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Chromux also manufactures its own line of products for next generation DWDM applications at the facility.

“We are looking forward to working with NP Photonics and are very optimistic that this will turn out to be a long-lasting and mutually rewarding relationship,” said John Auyeung, executive vice president of sales and marketing at Chromux. “We have the comprehensive expertise and experience in engineering, fabricating, packaging and testing of MEMS-based optical products that NP Photonics desired. And their unique technology will help us add more functionality to our existing DWDM products.”

Chromux plans to integrate NP Photonics’ CMEMS technology into its reconfigurable add/drop multiplexer subsystems, thereby increasing the functionality of its flagship ROADplexer™ product line. The ROADplexer provides DWDM equipment manufacturers with a single integrated module that incorporates the critical functions of reconfigurable OADMs, including mux/demux, switching, VOA, channel power monitoring and equalization, all in the small form factor of a line card.

About Chromux:

Chromux Technologies, Inc. leverages its expertise with fiber optics and micro-electro-mechanical system (MEMS) to develop and manufacture high-performance products for commercial telecommunication and military/aerospace applications. Chromux also offers a wide variety of wafer fabrication and optoelectronics packaging services. The Chromux team consists of industry veterans with world-class credentials in fiberoptic components, fiberoptic systems, MEMS, optoelectronic packaging technologies and manufacturing.

About NP Photonics:

Founded in 1998, NP Photonics is the originator of Erbium Micro Fiber (EMF) technology and is dedicated to the design, manufacture and marketing of compact, low-cost, intelligent fiber-based products for the sensing and telecommunications industries. The company has developed a broad family of products based on its micro fiber and Compliant MEMS technology, including tunable filters, OPM modules, Optical Spectrum Analyzer Engines, fiber lasers, ASE Sources and fiber amplifiers.

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For additional information contact:

Daryl Eigen
SVP Sales and Marketing
NP Photonics
daryl@npphotonics.com
Tel 520 799 7486
Fax 520 799 7403
www.npphotonics.com

John Auyeung
EVP Sales and Marketing
Chromux Technologies, Inc.
jauyeung@chromux.com
Tel 805 278 3208
Fax 805 278 3232
www.chromux.com

Richard Mauser
Tate Associates, Inc.
Tel. 760 930 0984
Fax 760 930 6584
richard@tatemail.com