

For Immediate Release
March 5, 2002
Tucson, AZ

Press Release

Spectra-Physics and NP Photonics Sign Joint Product Development Agreement

Spectra-Physics and NP Photonics have entered into a joint product development agreement with the aim of producing a new class of highly miniaturized, optical fiber based amplifiers for telecommunications applications. In particular, the multi-year agreement calls for the two companies to engage in joint development, manufacture and marketing of products based on NP Photonics' Erbium Microfiber Amplifier (EMFA) technology. This involves the use of a proprietary erbium-doped glass that produces extremely high optical gain over a very short length of fiber optic cable. Spectra-Physics will contribute its extensive design and volume manufacturing capabilities in semiconductor pump lasers and fiber amplifiers. The goal is to produce a unique range of low cost EMFA products primarily targeted at the metro and access markets where component size is of particular importance.

"By partnering with a vertically integrated laser company like Spectra-Physics, we are able to bring a complete, cost competitive micro-amplifier product to market nearly immediately," states Nasser Peyghambarian, Ph.D., NP Photonics President and CEO.

"Low cost, compact components are going to be critical in bringing the benefits of WDM to metro markets. We are very excited about working with this new technology, which makes these next-generation components a reality," adds Chuck Chandler, Spectra-Physics Senior Vice President.

Founded in 1998, NP Photonics is the originator of the Erbium Micro Fiber Amplifier (EMFA) technology and is dedicated to the design manufacture and marketing of intelligent, low cost, compact fiber amplifiers and fiber amplifier arrays. The company is developing a wide family of products based on its EMFA technology platform.

Founded in 1961, Spectra-Physics (NASDAQ:SPLI) is a global leader in the design, development, manufacture and distribution of semiconductor-based lasers and laser optics for a variety of end-markets. The company offers a diverse line of laser products backed by a sales, service and support organization located in more than 35 countries.

For additional information contact:

Daryl Eigen
NP Photonics
520-799-7486

Fax 520-799-7403

daryl@npphotonics.com

www.npphotonics.com

Bill Holtkamp
Spectra-Physics
650-966-5579

Fax 928-563-0061

bholtkamp@splasers.com

www.spectra-physics.com

The matters discussed in this news release may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Certain forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology, such as 'believes,' 'expects,' 'may,' 'will,' 'should,' 'seeks,' 'approximately,' 'intends,' 'plans,' 'estimates,' or 'anticipates,' or the negative thereof or other comparable terminology, or by discussions of strategy, plans or intentions. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. These include risks associated with sole suppliers and limited sources, the complexity of Spectra-Physics' manufacturing processes, successful identification of new markets, rapid and fundamental technological changes affecting the laser industry, dependence on proprietary technology, international sales, competitive pressures, success of strategic initiatives and other factors discussed from time to time in the forms and reports filed by Spectra-Physics with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), such as the Form 10-K dated March 24, 2000 and the Form 10-Q dated May 10, 2000. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. Spectra-Physics assumes no obligation to update information contained in this release.