



March 31, 2015

Air Force Research Laboratory  
2130 Eighth Street, Building 45  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Ohio 45433

Re: Department of Defense (DoD) Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL)  
Integrated Photonics Institute for Manufacturing Innovation (IP-IMI). Funding  
Opportunity Announcement Number RQKM-2015-0009

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the State of New York, I am pleased to enthusiastically endorse the proposal for the establishment of the American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics (AIM Photonics), in response to the Air Force Research Laboratory Integrated Photonics Institute for Manufacturing Innovation (IP-IMI) to be headquartered at in New York. AIM Photonics is led by SUNY Polytechnic Institute (SUNY Poly), in partnership with the University of Rochester (U of R), Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), and major industrial and academic leaders to develop and commercialize the use of integrated photonics for a wide array of commercial and defense applications.

The development of integrated photonic devices tailored for and integrated with systems servicing a broad array of market applications represents one of the largest economic growth opportunities to emerge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Successful commercialization of these integrated photonic devices will require the expansion of proven technology development partnership models, necessitate an investment partnership between federal and state governments and the private sector, and be driven by market strategies to overcome the significant technical, economic and business challenges currently being experienced.

Should the Institute be successful in its IP-IMI grant application, and be awarded \$110 million in Federal funding, the State of New York will provide \$250 million over the next five years toward this important initiative.

New York State support will include \$200 million funding to equip, install and make operational a state-of-the-art photonics prototyping, assembly, and test hub that will be focused on the critical challenge of sub-system fiber integration which is widely viewed as the enabling step in advancing this technology to widespread commercialization. It is anticipated that the Hub will be headquartered in Rochester, New York and will be directly supported by integrated and complementary research,



development, and deployment nodes at SUNY Poly, U of R, RIT and industrial members of the Institute, which will include New York State companies Corning, GE, IBM, GLOBALFOUNDRIES, among many others. In addition, New York State will also provide \$50 million over the 5 years to support the Institute operations.

Creating a U.S. based university-led, industry driven consortium providing industry, government and academic scientists, engineers, technicians and skilled trades access to unmatched facilities for integrated photonics device design, manufacture, test, assembly, and packaging of complex photonic integrated circuits supported by workforce and business development is critical to our state and nation's global competitiveness. We believe that the IP-IMI as proposed by AIM Photonics will create tens of thousands of high paying jobs, develop a robust domestic supply chain, and enable integrated photonic devices to enter the market place in a cost competitive manner, ultimately making the U.S. a global leader in this emerging new high-tech sector.

The entire AIM team applauds the DoD AFRL and supports its vision that advances in integrated photonics will catalyze dramatic growth in a broader array of market applications including telecommunications, data communications, data centers, aviation and aerospace, consumer media devices, medical, bio defense and many others.

We look forward to being part of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation and working with the DoD AFRL in creating the world's leading integrated photonics consortium.

Sincerely,

Howard Zemsky  
President & CEO, Empire State Development  
Commissioner, NYS Department of Economic Development