

DELIVERABLE REPORT

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1) OBJECTIVES

The objective of the activities reported in this deliverable is the establishment of a stable structure of durable integration that will outlive the project itself. One of the main targets that we aim to achieve is that, besides being viable and economically feasible, the chosen mechanism should be open and attractive to the community of companies, research centers, universities, etc., that are active in the nanophotonics for energy efficiency topic.

2) WORK PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PERIOD

The conclusion of the initial study and discussions carried out during this first year of the Nanophotonics for Energy network of excellence was that the most promising options to be further investigated towards lasting integration are the collaboration/integration with either the Nanophotonics Europe Association and/or the European Optical Society.

As a consequence, it was agreed at the Management Meeting that took place in March 2011 in Munich that the partners of the Network will start the procedure to become members of the Nanophotonics Europe Association. In parallel to that, contacts with EOS were initiated.

Besides these collaborations, during Year 4 we have vastly enhanced and expanded the Associate Membership scheme. The number of Associate Members has increased from 4 at the end of Year 2 to 22 at the end of Year 3 and to 41 at the end of Year 4 with a good number of industrial, R&D and academic institutions. Associate members receive information about all the events organized by the Network, can participate in Seed Projects, and in the Research Exchange Programme. As detailed in D1.7, more than 80% of these Associate members are active in Network activities, especially through participation in Seed Projects and in network events.

Finally, we are formalizing the durable nature of the network collaborations through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding, where the Consortium Members take the compromise to continue their collaborations beyond the project duration.

3) CONCLUSIONS

The long-term integration strategy of the N4E Network of Excellence is now available and contains several key components:

- Links to established, existing institutions with a solid European base through collaboration agreements with the Nanophotonics Europe Association and the European Optical Society.
- Openness to all interested parties, through the Associate Membership scheme. Associate Members can participate in the Seed Project scheme and Research Exchange

programme and are informed of all the activities in the project. This scheme has proven its usefulness by the fact that more than 80% of the current Associate Members are actively participating in the Network.

- A unified entry point for anyone seeking collaborations or services related to nanophotonics and energy efficiency. A consolidated view of the resources and expertise available in the Network is available online in the “Contact Us” page of our webpage. Resources from Associate members will be incorporated during Year 4 (on an opt-in basis) with the objective of becoming a central hub of resources related to nanophotonics for Energy Efficiency.
- All these elements will continue being operational beyond the end of the Project.