

Activity & Progress Reporting

Section Autumn Meeting - 20th October 2023

1. <i>Chapter/Affinity Group:</i>	Photonics Chapter (PHO36)
2. <i>Committee Members</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Pitwon (Chair) • Filipe Ferreira (Treasurer) • Lee Crudgington (Secretary) • Akhil Kallepalli (Media officer) • Greta de Paoli (Event organiser)
3. <i>Reporting Officer:</i>	Richard Pitwon
4. <i>Overview of current plan and activities:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Technical support for 12th IEEE CPMT Symposium Japan (ICSJ2023) conference, 15th – 17th November 2023 ii. Support for IEEE ECTC 2024 in May 2024. Richard Pitwon is the current chair of the ECTC 2024 photonics subcommittee tasked with increasing the impact of photonics. iii. IEC TC86 (Fibre Optics) general meeting in November. R. Pitwon will promote IEEE UK and Ireland section and PHO36 activities. iv. Joint STEM event at NPL in Teddington (under discussion) v. Big Bang Fair engagement (under review) vi. British Standards Institute. R. Pitwon is chair of Fibre Optics standards committee (GEL 86) and optical connector subcommittee (GEL86/2) and will create a liaison for UK&I IEEE to BSI
5. <i>Key Achievements and member value/services to date:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Conference on Optical Communication (ECOC 2023) in Glasgow, September 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both PHO36 and Quantum group supported ECOC 2023 conference in Glasgow with logos prominently displayed ○ ECOC is the largest optical conference and exhibition in Europe • 9th Symposium for Optical Interconnect in Data Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Although formal sponsorship was not possible, Richard Pitwon also promoted the Photonics Chapter and Quantum Group verbally at the 9th Symposium for Optical Interconnect in Data Centres, which was the first officially gender-balanced optics conference in history. ○ Carol Monaghan MP opened the conference and publicly lauded the event as such. • European Optical Society Annual Meeting (EOSAM 2023). Richard Pitwon promoted PHO36 in two invited talks • Photonics Ireland conference 2023 (University of Limerick). Richard Pitwon was invited to speak on a panel about engineering careers as chair of PHO36 and strongly promoted IEEE UK and Ireland section STEM activities in Ireland

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCP 2023 (18th October 2023). Richard Pitwon promoted PHO36 and Quantum Group in invited talk on quantum standards to Open Compute Summit
<p>6. Key Challenges:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to formally sponsor an event, even technically sponsor an event it is required that an MOU is signed between the event and IEEE. In most cases, event parties will not agree to this as it is considered excessive burden. Is there a way to circumvent this need for an MOU, at least for technical sponsorship? That would allow us to be associated with many more events.
<p>7. Deficits/Required Resources:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for photonics and optics STEM kits for schools
<p>8. Actions/Support requested from the Section:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better acknowledgement of subcommittee volunteer efforts by ExCom especially amongst younger volunteers would go a long way to encourage continued volunteer contributions. This could be done by ExCom chair attendance of at least one of each Chapter meeting during the year.
<p>9. Action Plan:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photonics STEM outreach plan in STEM deprived areas of Ireland • Trial in Wexford for school engagement and organising inspirational speakers to visit schools