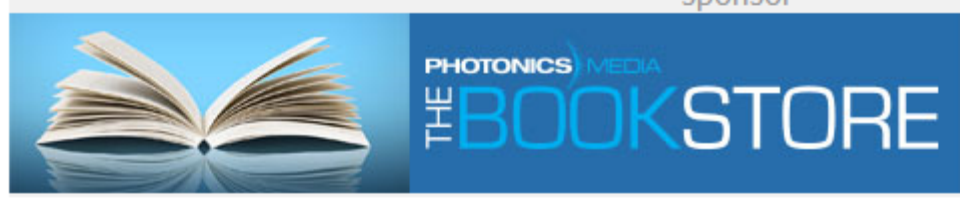


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Defense & Aerospace News

Free-Space Optical Communications Comes of Age

It has taken a few decades for engineers to achieve a critical mass of system concepts and technologies for free-space optical communications. Developers around the world have now demonstrated all the most challenging parts of the technology, and we can now state that free-space optical communications is finally taking hold in a number of classical and novel markets.



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Surveillance Robots Share and Interpret Images

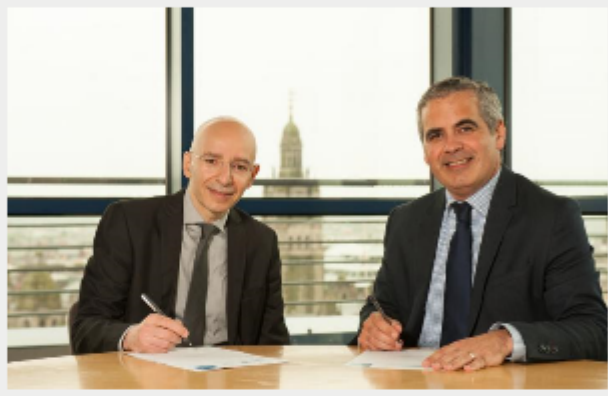
A new system that allows a team of robots to share and interpret information as they move around could enable these same robots to relieve humans of dangerous jobs such as disposing of landmines, cleaning up after a nuclear meltdown or surveying the damage after a flood or hurricane.



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Strathclyde, BAE Systems Form Research Partnership

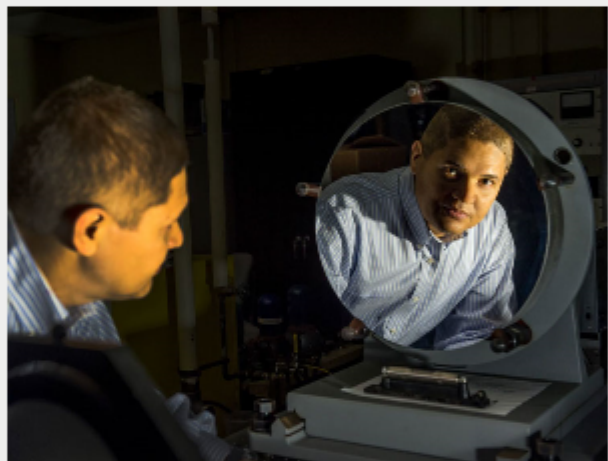
The University of Strathclyde has signed a strategic framework agreement with multinational defense, security and aerospace company BAE Systems PLC to strengthen a long-term relationship in research, education and consultancy.



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NASA Investigates Optical Coatings for Far-UV Spectral Range

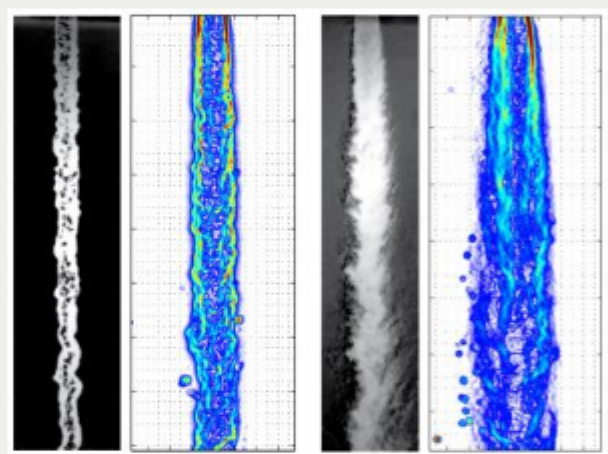
To meet the projected goals for its next generation of space telescopes, NASA is taking on a new optical challenge — the fabrication of protective coatings for mirrors to be used for astrophysics studies in the Lyman Alpha range. So far, no one has developed a coating that effectively protects and maintains an aluminum mirror's high reflectivity in the 90- to 130-nm range. At this spectral regime, scientists can observe an assortment of spectral lines and astronomical targets.



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Planar Laser-Induced Fluorescence Measures Jet Disintegration Quantitatively

Spectroscopic diagnostic techniques were used to analyze the fundamentals of sub- to supercritical jet disintegration and mixing. The research could lead to a better understanding of the precise dynamics of fuel breakup and dispersion, impacting the way rocket engines, gas turbines and diesel engines are built.



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Clemson Receives Funding from DoD for Laser Weaponry Research

Two researchers at Clemson University are taking different but complementary approaches to creating a high-energy laser that could be used as a weapon. The engineers are receiving a combined \$3.2 million from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to help fund the research.



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Elbit Systems of America Awarded Lockheed Martin F-35 Contract

Defense systems developer Elbit Systems of America LLC has been awarded a contract by Lockheed Martin Aeronautics to develop a cockpit display replacement for the F-35 aircraft.

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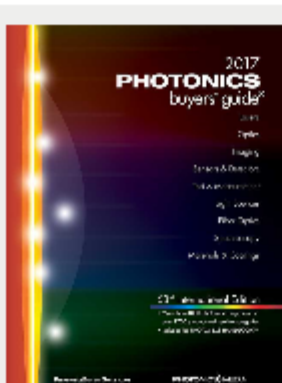


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