

PRESS INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 22, 2017

Fraunhofer start-up award for Multiphoton Optics GmbH

On Tuesday, February 21, 2017, Multiphoton Optics GmbH received the EUR 5,000 Fraunhofer start-up award, a joint initiative of Fraunhofer Venture and High-Tech Gründerfonds. The award honors the company's development in the area of high-precision 3D printing. Multiphoton Optics GmbH was founded in 2013 as a spin-off of the Fraunhofer-Institute for Silicate Research ISC and develops and markets a high-precision 3D printing platform enabling the creation of complex three-dimensional structures on a sub-micrometer scale. This technology bears a high potential especially for the future of data transfer.

Digital data transfer has grown tremendously over the last years. Even for powerful data transfer systems such as high-performance computers it has become increasingly challenging to handle the volume. One promising solution is optical data transfer. With considerably less processes and a clearly higher transfer speed, it is much more energy- and therefore also cost-efficient. Multiphoton Optics GmbH enables high-precision 3D printing of three-dimensional structures on a nano- and micrometer scale. Optical components such as for instance photonic chips, laser diodes, or optical fibers may be interlinked by means of three-dimensional optical elements. "Producing these elements on an industrial scale – this is a milestone for optical data transfer," says Dr. Ruth Houbertz, founder and CEO of Multiphoton Optics GmbH.

Award for entrepreneurial and technological achievements

On Tuesday, February 21, 2017, the spin-off received the Fraunhofer start-up award. "Multiphoton Optics GmbH is the worldwide leading manufacturer of microoptics through high-precision 3D printing. Especially the *LithoProf3D* high-precision 3D prin-

The **Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft** is the leading organization for applied research in Europe. Its research activities are conducted by 69 institutes and research units at locations throughout Germany. 24,500 employees work with an annual research budget totaling 2.1 billion euros.

Fraunhofer Venture is a central department of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and partner for founders, start-ups, Fraunhofer institutes, industry, and investors. By providing access to Fraunhofer technologies, Fraunhofer infrastructure, and Fraunhofer know how with more than 5200 patent families, it offers start-ups the possibility to faster and better establish their products on the market. The range of services of Fraunhofer Venture includes comprehensive support and consulting from the idea to the start-up, assistance for finding financing solutions to a possible sale of the company and is backed by different development programs and additional services.

ting platform launched in 2015 and the *LithoSoft3D®* software introduced in 2016 have proven a great success for the company. In addition, Multiphoton Optics GmbH signed a production contract with Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG in January, which now also allows for scaling the production process of the *LithoProf3D* platform," Thomas Doppelberger, head of Fraunhofer-Venture, explains the jury decision. "With the Fraunhofer start-up award we want to honor these extraordinary entrepreneurial and technological achievements." Also Dr. Andreas Olmes, Investment Director Proxy at High-Tech Gründerfonds, confirms the remarkable development of the spin-off: "Multiphoton Optics closes the gap between electronics and photonics and opens up whole new possibilities for data transfer systems of the future. That way the company does not only contribute tremendous technological progress but also a great benefit for society."

For Dr. Ruth Houbertz, the cooperation with Fraunhofer Venture and HighTech Gründerfonds was an important factor for the company's success: "I always have an experienced partner at my side to reflect in particular entrepreneurial questions and decisions."

The Fraunhofer start-up award

The Fraunhofer start-up award was introduced in the scope of the new spin-off and investment strategy of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and awarded the first time in 2016. It honors a spin-off that is active and successful on the market and offers products or services with a direct benefit for society. With the award Fraunhofer Venture and High-Tech Gründerfonds aim to honor extraordinary start-up projects and further advance spin-off ideas within the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft.

About Multiphoton Optics GmbH

Multiphoton Optics GmbH is headquartered in Würzburg and markets the *LithoProf3D* high-precision 3D printing platform and software (*LithoSoft3D®*) for manufacturing optical packages, microoptical elements, and biomedical products. Its customers benefit from a prototyping service for demonstrating the industrial scalability and the hardware and software capabilities for additive and subtractive manufacturing. The company was founded in 2013 as a pin-off of the Fraunhofer Institute for Silicate Research ISC. Multiphoton Optics GmbH markets a standard as well as customized solution of its

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high-precision 3D printing platform. *LithoProf3D*, the first commercially available equipment, was launched on the market in February 2015.

About High-Tech Gründerfonds

High-Tech Gründerfonds invests venture capital in young, high potential high-tech start-ups that can turn promising research findings into business success. The seed financing provided is designed to enable start-ups to take an R&D project through prototyping and to “proof of concept” phase or directly to market launch. The fund initially invests € 600,000, with the potential for up to a total of € 2 million per company. Investors in the public-private partnership include the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, the KfW Banking Group and 18 companies: ALTANA, BASF, Bayer, B. Braun, Robert Bosch, CEWE, Daimler, Deutsche Post DHL, Deutsche Telekom, Evonik, Innogy, Lanxess, media + more venture Beteiligungs GmbH & Co. KG, METRO, Qiagen, SAP, Tengemann and Carl Zeiss. High-Tech Gründerfonds has a total fund volume of around 576 million euros (272 million euros fund I and 304 million euros fund II).

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