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Editors

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Introduction

Welcome to Napoli and to the third in our consolidated series on optical fibre sensors.

We have the honour of organizing this workshop after the successful past editions (Peebles 1998, Santander 2004). Much has changed, especially considering the enormous impact of nanotechnology, although much has also stayed the same. Bragg gratings continue to excite the research and industrial community, and distributed sensors offer enormous potential in several industrial sectors. Biological and chemical areas are emerging with new demands, opening new application opportunities in life science. New concepts based on photonic crystal fibres, band-gap structures, active and functionalised materials at sub-wavelength or nano-scale, and metamaterials offer a potential that has yet to be realised. The areas in which fibre sensors are applied continue to steadily expand, and most certainly commercial activity has significantly increased.

The organization of the workshop will be devoted to create a colloquial and informal atmosphere in order to help knowledge exchange and the creation of new collaborations. Our goal is to provide a common forum for leading international authorities, young researchers, practitioners, user-communities, and research planners. The aim is to stimulate and convey considerations, thoughts, and future perspectives on the role of optical fibre sensor technology in the wider sensing world.

To this aim, the workshop program includes invited oral contributions given by leading authorities, and submitted contributions principally in poster form with discussions groups. We have also incorporated a special session: Optical Fibre Sensors: Market Opportunities. In this session, leading authorities from the industrial world will provide a market overview of optical fibre sensors in important industrial sectors. You will also hear of important aspects related to optical fibre-based systems' commercialization such as reliability and standards.

These proceedings include 149 papers. Fifteen are from very well reputed world-wide invited speakers. One is a special paper and 133 were accepted after being peer reviewed for their significance, innovation, and quality by well recognised experts in the field.

On behalf of all involved in the preparation of the conference, we would like to particularly thank Andrea Cusano, Agostino Iadicicco, and Alessio Crescitelli for the technical support, and Paola Ambrosino and Alessandra Saioni for the administrative assistance.

Our sponsors, listed within these proceedings, have donated both financial and technical support for which we are extremely grateful. The technical and advisory committee reviewed the papers with skill, authority, and speed, providing invaluable technical and strategic inputs to the conference program.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to southern Italy. This is a very beautiful part of the country and we hope that in addition to participating in what we expect to be a very stimulating meeting, you will have the opportunity to explore this amazing area.

Antonello Cutolo
Brian Culshaw
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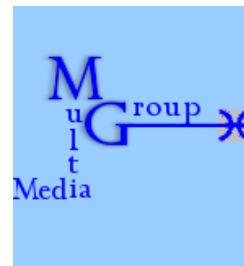
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