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Nanophotonics III

David L. Andrews
Jean-Michel Nunzi
Andreas Ostendorf
Editors

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Introduction

The Photonics Europe conference on Nanophotonics is now firmly established on the international research stage. This year's conference, the third in the biennial series, ran a full week with a packed schedule of high quality lecture and poster sessions. The presentations represented the full span of a fast-moving and highly distinctive subject area. Invited and contributory participants were drawn to the new venue in Brussels from far afield, many of those who travelled the furthest subsequently falling foul of the prolonged flight groundings that followed the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland. Such were their enforced delays in returning home, two weeks in some cases, that a number of our contributors ran short of time to deliver a manuscript to these proceedings. To them we offer our appreciative thanks for their presence and all of their other contributions at the conference, and for enduring with good spirit the problems that thereafter beset them.

The concise and still relatively new term, 'nanophotonics,' addresses the many physical systems and optical interactions in which characteristics are very substantially modified, in some cases almost entirely determined, by nanoscale features. Here, the character of optical propagation and measurement commonly involves an intricate interplay of structural, spectroscopic, electromagnetic, electronic, and quantum optical features. An increasingly extensive range of structures is being actively researched. Many of the active research themes concern surfaces either directly or indirectly, for example nanofabricated surfaces and surface plasmonics, thin film optics, near-field interactions, evanescent waves and sub-wavelength aperture effects. Other kinds of response are manifest in supramolecular and polymeric systems, cavity nanophotonic structures, and nano-antennas. All are represented in these proceedings.

It is a pleasure to thank all who contributed to the meeting; those who presented papers and delivered high quality manuscripts for these proceedings, and fellow members of the program committee who chaired sessions and generally helped draw the conference together. Finally we record sincere thanks to all of the members of SPIE support staff, for uncompromising and characteristic professionalism, enthusiasm, and above all for their keen support.

David L. Andrews
Jean-Michel Nunzi
Andreas Ostendorf

