

LIGHT AND ENLIGHTENMENT

PERSPECTIVES ON THE NEXT DECADE

The Photonics Research Group of Ghent University and imec invites you to a special and unique symposium. The event marks the retirement of Roel Baets after 34 years as a professor at Ghent University and as a group leader at imec. The program will be forward-looking, with two angles: the future of photonics – “Light” – and the future of society and planet – “Enlightenment”.

29 SEPTEMBER 2023

@DE BIJLOKE, GENT

MORNING SESSION (9AM – 12PM): LIGHT

The morning session will be about light-enabled science and technology, or, as we like to call it, **photonics**. Distinguished photonics experts will present their vision about the **key trends in the field for the next 10 years**. The scope of each presentation will be: which scientific, technological, economical or societal breakthroughs and changes will the field of photonics enable 10 years from now, and what research is needed to get there?

Keynote speakers will be **John Bowers**, professor at UC Santa Barbara, and prof. **Mark Thompson**, Chief Technologist at PsiQuantum. These keynotes will be complemented by visionary talks by **Jose Pozo**, CTO of Optica, **Danae Delbeke**, CEO of Indigo, and **Zeger Hens**, professor at Ghent University. The session will be chaired by **Thomas Krauss**, professor at the University of York.

AFTERNOON SESSION (1:30PM – 4:30PM): ENLIGHTENMENT

The afternoon session will have a much broader perspective, far beyond photonics. It will have a **focus on major challenges of our society and planet**. Prominent speakers of industry and academia will “enlighten” the audience with their views on these bigger challenges, on ways to tackle them and on the very question: **where can we hope to be 10 years from now?** The **speakers** for the afternoon session will be: **Jo De Boeck**, Chief Strategy Officer at imec, **Rudi De Winter**, CEO of X-FAB, **Ingrid Van de Voorde**, Director Nokia Bell Labs Belgium, **Jean-Pascal Van Ypersele**, professor at UCL and candidate IPCC-chair, and **Rik Van de Walle**, rector of Ghent University. The session will be chaired by **Roel Baets**.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The symposium takes place in De Bijloke, **Bijlokekaai 7, 9000 Gent**, more specifically in the concert room **Kraakhuis**. The program will **start at 9am and will finish at 4:30pm**, followed by a **reception**. Participation is by invitation only and is free of charge. Registration is mandatory however, with indication of the participation in the morning session, lunch, afternoon session and reception.

REGISTRATION LINK: event.ugent.be/registration/LightSymposium