

## French delegation visits CSIR for strategic partnership in Optics & Photonics



*Dr Girish Sahni, DG,CSIR & Secretary, DSIR flanked by Dr. Katia Mirochnitchenko, GM, OPTITEC (left) and Dr Amitava Bandopadhyay, Head, CSIR- ISTAD (right) addressing the French delegation.*



*Representatives of the French Optics & Photonics delegation and officials from French Embassy along with Prof R K Sinha, Director, CSIR-CSIO (sitting on second right) and CSIR scientists from CSIO, NPL, CGCRI, NPL and ISTAD*

A French delegation in the area of “Optics and Photonics”, comprising 13 participating organizations, including 2 Clusters ([OPTITEC](#) and [Photonics Bretagne](#)) and 11 companies, visited CSIR on 10 September, 2015. The delegation was led by Dr. Katia Mirochnitchenko-Pirrero, General Director of *OPTITEC* and Dr. David Mechin, Managing Director, *Photonics Bretagne*. The Trade Commissioner, French Consulate, Mumbai Mr Sylain Biard and Mr Philippe Arhets, Counselor for Science & Technology, French Embassy, New Delhi also accompanied the delegation to CSIR. The delegation held discussions towards exploring the possibilities for collaboration in the area of Optics & Photonics with CSIR scientists working in these areas.

The domains of excellence of the participating French organizations range from ultrafast lasers, supercontinuum laser sources, beam shapers, homogenizers and splitters for lasers, wave front analyzers, flashlamps, adaptive optics, deposition printers for printed electronics, optic systems, hexapods, custom optic fibers etc. Their domain of applications cover scientific instrumentation, optics materials, medical biotechnologies, green photonics, manufacturing industries, electronics, astronomy, defense, aeronautics etc.

Dr. Girish Sahni, DG,CSIR & Secretary, DSIR joined the meeting briefly and in his welcome remarks, emphasised the need for starting joint ventures and start-ups in the area of Optics & Photonics. He apprised the visitors that CSIR would be happy to collaborate with the French companies in these strategic areas. Prof. R.K. Sinha, Director, CSIR-CSIO, Chandigarh informed the gathering that 2015 is the International Year of Light as declared by the UN and it was indeed the most appropriate time to be

discussing this collaboration. Earlier a networking session, on the occasion of the visit of a French delegation in the fields of Optics and Photonics, was organized at Laser World of Photonics India 2015, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 9th of September 2015 by the French Trade and Investment Commission in India – Business France and was also attended by CSIR scientists. Presentations on R&D on Photonics and Optics at CSIR were made by scientists from CSIR-CSIO, CSIR-NPL, CSIR-CEERI and CSIR-CGCRI.

Dr. Katia Mirochnitchenko, GM, Optitec, and Dr. David Méchin Managing Director, Photonics Bretagne gave an overview of the French Optics & photonics sector. Representatives of the French cluster and companies briefed CSIR scientists about their respective domains of excellence and the possible areas in which they could partner with CSIR institutes.

Prof. R.K. Sinha and Dr. Amitava Bandhopadhyay, Head, CSIR-ISTAD led the discussions on “way forward”. Some of the areas identified for possible collaboration were high powered fibre lasers and their strategic and societal applications; Optical components as well as design and development of specialty optical fibers. The French side also proposed to have student exchange programme with CSIR laboratories. CSIR agreed to host a joint workshop in the area of Optics & Photonics tentatively around February 2016. It was mutually decided that both sides would identify a road-map for fostering co-operation in these areas.

Dr Purnima Rupal, Principal Scientist, CSIR-ISTAD proposed a Vote of thanks.

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