



Photonics Matters: A brief discussion of a key enabling technology





Abstract:

Photonics is a rapidly growing field that touches our lives every day. SPIE partners with researchers, educators, and industry to advance light-based research and technologies for the betterment of the human condition. This talk will discuss the photonics industry, emerging technologies, and touch on the role of photonics in the recent redefinition of the SI (the International System of Units).

Kent's Bio:

Kent Rochford joined SPIE as CEO in May 2018, succeeding Eugene Arthurs, who retired after 18 years in that position. Previously, Dr. Rochford was Associate Director for Laboratory Programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), providing direction and operational guidance for NIST's scientific and technical laboratory programs with 2,800 staff and an \$800 million budget. In this role he represented the full breadth of laboratory activity to domestic and international constituencies, collaborators, stakeholders, the U.S. Congress, and advisory boards, and served as acting NIST Director and Undersecretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology during 2017.

During his career at NIST, he headed up NIST-Boulder Labs and the Communication Technology Laboratory (CTL) in Colorado, and served as chief of both the Quantum Electronics and Photonics and Optoelectronics Divisions at NIST, as well as acting director of the Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory. This work provided measurement R&D and standards support for the optoelectronics and photonics industry, spanning communications, lasers, sensors, quantum optics, and materials. In addition to NIST employment, he was a Senior Director for materials and devices at Sharp Labs of America, managed the systems and architecture department at YAFO, an optical-communications start up, and worked in central research at 3M corporation.

Rochford holds a PhD in optical sciences from the University of Arizona, a BS in electrical engineering from Arizona State University, and an MBA from the University of Colorado.