

# OPTICS and PHOTONICS ORLANDO

From a specialized workforce and dedicated educational organizations to pioneering research and a progressive business environment, Metro Orlando's optics and photonics industry continues to be a nationally recognized leader, with a rich history of innovation and expansion.

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*Serving Orange, Seminole, Lake  
and Osceola Counties and the City of Orlando*

# OPTICS and PHOTONICS A BRIGHT FORMULA FOR GROWTH



1.12.10

## INDUSTRY STRENGTH



Since the early 1960s, Metro Orlando's optics and photonics industry has grown from a highly specialized military pursuit to a strong, diverse sector. Today, Metro Orlando is an internationally-recognized leader in this industry: over **95 PHOTONICS COMPANIES** employ more than **15,000 WORKERS** that contribute over \$2 billion in gross regional product. Looking forward, as a hub for both new technology and application-focused products and services, the optics and photonics industry in Metro Orlando is clearly poised to flourish well into the future.

## PARTNERSHIP STRENGTH

The Metro Orlando business community is closely knit and works together to foster an environment that encourages information exchange and breeds success. Research, community and business organizations unite to enhance the optics and photonics industry within the region.

One result of such collaboration is the **FLORIDA PHOTONICS CLUSTER (FPC)**, whose mission is to support the growth and profitability of this industry throughout Florida by providing a unified voice for the field, a network for communication and collaboration, and a medium to raise public and private awareness of the contributions the industry makes to the region.

Through this and other avenues, industry leaders meet frequently to discuss the business climate, as well as to develop partnerships and strategies to accelerate the growth of their individual business and the overall optics and photonics sector in Metro Orlando.



## ACADEMIC AND WORKFORCE STRENGTH

One of the most frequently cited strengths of Metro Orlando is its workforce. The region possesses a high concentration of talented employees with the dedication, education and experience necessary to meet the skill needs of the region's established cluster of optics and photonics companies.

A great deal of the optics and photonics industry's success in Florida is attributable to educational programs designed specifically to prepare people for work in the field. Most notable is the **UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA's (UCF)** world renowned **COLLEGE OF OPTICS AND PHOTONICS** and its three research centers: the **CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN OPTICS AND LASERS (CREOL)**, the **FLORIDA PHOTONICS CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE (FPCE)**, and the **TOWNES LASER INSTITUTE**. The College of Optics and Photonics, recognized as one of the top three independent optics academic units in the nation, and the first college-level institution in the USA, offers an interdisciplinary program with MS and Ph.D degrees in Optics; and has strong partnership ties to industry through an Industrial Affiliates program with 30-40 percent of its annual external research funding provided by industry.

In addition, strong programs at local **STATE/COMMUNITY COLLEGES** train students to enter the field in various capacities and help to create a complete workforce pool that includes engineers, laser technicians, optics technicians, opto-mechanical technicians, and systems analysts, among many others.



*Metro Orlando is a nationally recognized leader in the optics and photonics industry.*