



# AMERICAN PRECISION OPTICS MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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Press Release

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## OPTICS AND ELECTRO-OPTICS STANDARDS COUNCIL FORMED

### *Industry Support Drive Underway*

**Rochester, New York** -- Seven major optics organizations and companies have pledged financial support and announced plans to form an optics and electro-optics standards council to set priorities and funding strategies for standards.

Included in this group are the following organizations: APOMA (American Precision Optics Manufacturers Association); Eastman Kodak Company, LEOS (Lasers and Electro-Optics Society); LEOMA (Lasers and Electro-Optics Manufacturers' Association); NAPM (National Association of Photographic Manufacturers); OSA (Optical Society of America); and SPIE (The International Society for Optical Engineering). Each organization has pledged \$5,000 annually for the next two years, and has committed staff and volunteer support. APOMA President George R Platt, Texas Instruments, will serve as chair pro tem for the group.

The new standards council will immediately begin an effort to raise industry support to maintain current levels of standards activities and will begin to recruit more corporate members for the council.

"The goal of the organizing effort is to establish an effective industry-based standards development and support structure within the U.S.," according to Platt. Some key items to address are financial and volunteer support for participation in international standards-activities, identification of standards needs for emerging technologies, and user education related to U.S. and international standards work.

Much of the basic standards work in U.S. optics/electro-optics was done under the auspices of the Department of Defense, which for several years has been pressing industry to convert to ANSI and other private developers.

According to APOMA/COM Director Harvey Pollicove, "The optics industry has developed a comfort level with DoD's mil specs and must now learn to stand on its own. Many of these documents, especially the basic 'scratch and dig standards', are overdue for examination and would not withstand a thorough consensus review in their present form."

"Standards are absolutely essential to sustained growth in any industry," notes LEOMA's Breck Hitz, who chairs the ISO Laser Committee. "If the United States fails to participate in the creation of international optics standards during the next decade, that failure will have an extremely detrimental impact on our entire optics industry. The Optics and Electro-Optics Standards Council will provide an effective mechanism for U.S. participation in international optics standards."

The council held its first organizational meetings in October in conjunction with the OSA Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas, and in November in conjunction with SPIE's Photonics East

conference. APOMA's Center for Optics Manufacturing (COM) has agreed to serve as administrator for the council.