



Vol. 1, Issue 3 - February, 2023

We are pleased to share this edition of our newsletter with you. If you enjoy this content, please share with anyone you think may also appreciate it!

APOMA's New President Outlines Vision



It has never been done in APOMA's 30-year history. The American Precision Optics Manufacturing Association has always been a volunteer-driven organization. But incoming president Lee Steneken says the extraordinary growth of the optics industry requires a bold change: a full-time director at APOMA who can help those manufacturers meet current and future demands. He has a plan on how to do it.



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SPIE Features AmeriCOM Panel



More than 22,000 attendees from 85 countries gathered in San Francisco earlier this month for SPIE Photonics West 2023. Billed as the largest annual photonics conference, the event's exhibitions, discussions and presentations buzzed with energy not seen since prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference featured AmeriCOM's highly-anticipated panel titled "**Where Have All the Technicians Gone? Learn How Optics Ecosystems Are Bringing Them Back.**" Read SPIE's coverage about how collaborators from industry, education, and nonprofit sectors are working with AmeriCOM to build back the optics technician workforce.



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Thorlabs Expands B2B Capacity

It all started from a spare bedroom with a Labrador retriever named Thor. That's where **Alex Cable** launched his optical equipment company in 1989. While working at Bell Labs, Cable bought a milling machine to design and build optomechanical parts in his spare time. Once sales grew enough to support a full-time effort, Cable launched Thorlabs named after his beloved Lab, Thor. Today, Thorlabs has 15 substantial design and production facilities located in nine countries around the world – including its latest acquisition in a community at the heart of the optics technology industry.



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Real people, real stories.



That is the focus (pardon the pun) of the next phase in AmeriCOM's national outreach campaign. We'll be featuring optics students, instructors, technicians, and others in video and background stories. People like Felicity – a young mother who used her experience in ceramics and jewelry-making to launch a career as an optics technician. We are always looking for new stories to tell – maybe even yours! Let us know if you or someone you know would be interested in being featured. Visit [The FutureIsOptics.com](https://www.futureisoptics.com) to learn more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Optical Fiber Communications (OFC) Conference
Mar. 5 - 9, 2023

SPIE Defense and Commercial Sensing
Apr. 30 - May 4, 2023

Hypersonic Innovation Conference
May 2 - 4, 2023

Education in Optics & Photonics (ETOP)
May 15 - 18, 2023

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