BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 123
Lasers and photonics

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Business environment

- Optical technologies, in particular laser technology, are innovative and fast developing new technologies. Laser technology and photonics are self-consistent fields and "enabling" cross-disciplinary technologies.
- Europe represents nearly 40 % of the global laser market, which has an estimated annual growth rate of 12 to 14 %.
- Companies producing lasers, laser optics and micro-optical, diffractive optical or integrated optical components are in most cases small or medium-sized enterprises (SME).
- The trade is globally oriented.
- Photonics is also considered a key enabler in exploiting the potential of nanotechnology.

Benefits

- CEN/TC 123 has developed and maintained over 20 European Standards.
- Clear characterization of laser beams and related optical components facilitates the negotiations between customers and suppliers, allows proper calculation of systems or parts of them (e.g.: the beam guiding system) or obviates disputes with the customers. Standards also help establishing quality management systems and support benchmarking.
- The standardisation undertaken within CEN/TC 123 supports the EU Directives on medical devices and on machinery and is also helpful for accident prevention regulations.
- Standards support system competence, which is a sensitive capability for cross-sectional products that have the complexity of optical systems, and enable the application of modular design.

Priorities

To make European Standards available related to:

- test methods for laser beam and optics characterization
- safety standards for laser materials processing machines
- interfaces and documentation
- micro-optics, diffractive optics and integrated optics