#### SUMMARY:

- Group was created to launch forward photonics initiative, focuses on branding, advocacy and lobbying for photonics industry.
- Strive to increase collaboration and coordination among US industry, government and academia to advance photonics-driven fields.
- Most recently have been focused on bringing the message to Washington
- Launched white paper, have had industry visits with legislators with hopes that it will benefit the industry
- Group Comments:
  - o Collaborations in the industry: Have focused on key cluster states want to highlight that bridge to politicians
  - o Timeline for initiative: NPI is putting tools to build those bridged with community colleges and academic, but it's up to state to build the bridge. NPI then highlights stories and showcases them with individuals.
- No set end date to initiative have made strong contacts that highlight the good work that is being done and there is no cut-off date.
  - o Membership: work through membership of photonics institutions that already exist represent industry and academia side membership of those institutions.
  - o Other funding vehicles: RAMI have worked to get photonics language there as well.



### **Emily Pappas**

Vice President, Podesta Group September 10, 2014

### What is the NPI?



- A collaborative alliance seeking to unite industry, academia and government to identify and advance areas of photonics critical to maintaining US competitiveness and national security:
  - Advanced Manufacturing
  - Health and Medicine
  - Defense and National Security
  - Communications and Information Technology
  - Energy
- Launched in May 2013

### Who is the NPI?



• NPI Founding Sponsors:





NPI Sponsors:







## Critical Timeframe



- Historically the US has been the world leader in deploying photonics research to power cutting-edge technologies, driving global awareness and investment.
- Global competition has put US leadership in photonics at risk.
- The US has lost a substantial share of the global market to overseas competitors as well as thousands of jobs.
- US investment in photonics-driven fields will create jobs in the US and help grow international economies.
- 2012 National Research Council report, "Optics and Photonics: Essential Technologies for our Nation."

### **NPI** Goals



- Raise awareness about photonics and the impact of photonics on our everyday lives.
- Increase collaboration and coordination among US industry, government and academia to advance photonics-driven fields.
- Drive US funding and investment in areas of photonics critical to maintaining competitiveness and national security.

## **NPI** Audience



- General public
- Policymakers
- Industry and academia
- Media

### **Timeline**



#### Months 1-8

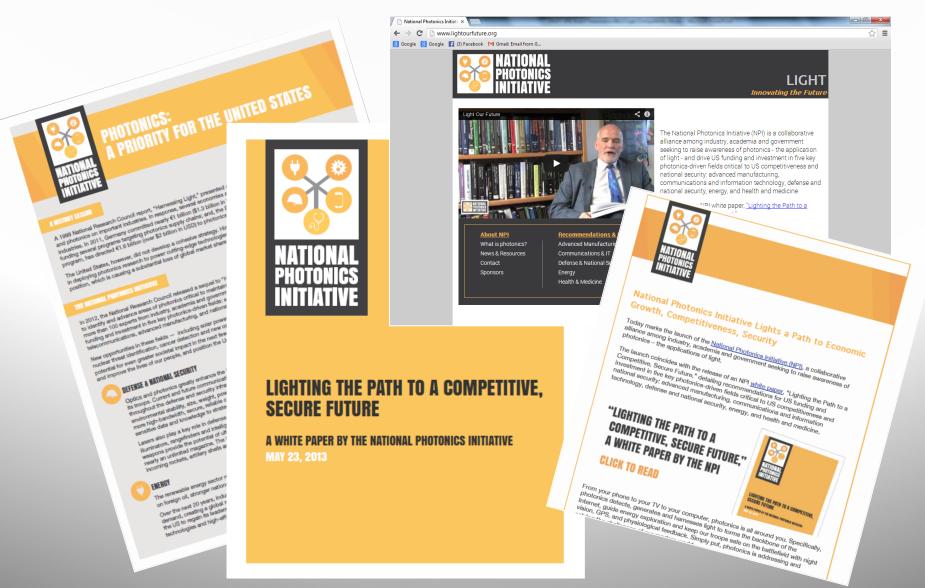
- Define a vision for the NPI
- Engage stakeholders from within the photonics industry
- Initiate outreach to the media and secure media placements
- Raise the profile of the initiative and photonics

#### Months 9 to present

- Bring the NPI message to Washington
- Secure favorable policies and funding opportunities for photonics



## Building the NPI Brand



## Launching the NPI

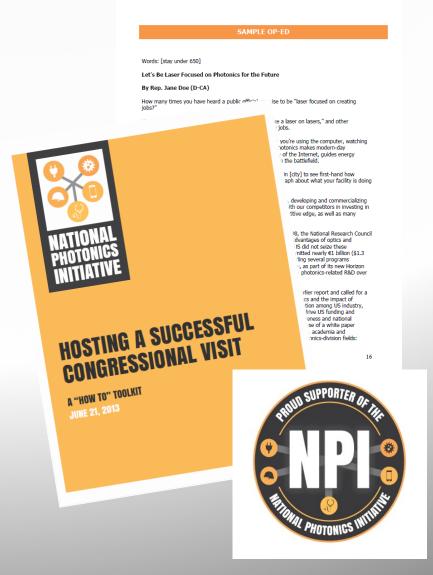


- Launched the NPI website <u>www.lightourfuture.org</u>
- Distributed a press release that appears on 370 media websites
- 18 unique articles about the NPI launch published in key trade publications
- Reached more than 50,000 people as a result of tweets
- Over 70 took part in the launch day webinar to discuss the release of the NPI white paper
- e-blast sent to nearly 200 select staff on Capitol Hill

## **Engaging the Industry**



- Created Congressional Toolkit for NPI supporters
- Designed web sticker for NPI supporter organizations and individuals to display on webpages and printed materials
- Disseminated NPI social media messages for stakeholders to push out via Twitter and Facebook
- Held webinars to train and educate NPI supporters on opportunities to advocate









## **NPI Next Steps**

- Bring together experts to explore, identify and pursue other areas where private sector and federal government interests align.
  - Biophotonics
  - High powered lasers
  - Sensors
  - Education

# **NPI Next Steps**



- Continue to press for legislation highlighting importance of optics and photonics and advancing NPI objectives.
- Continue to build support in the House and Senate and expand congressional champions.
- Engage the White House, federal agencies and the Congress in new photonics areas.





Emily Pappas

Podesta Group

epappas@podestagroup.com