The PROPHET Consortium

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Cork Institute of Technology
Cork, Ireland

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Grant No.: 264687

PROPHET

Postgraduate Research on
Photonics as an Enabling Technology

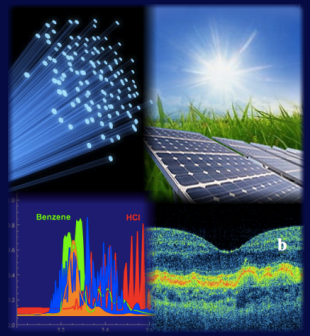
A Marie Curie Initial Training Network

Funded by the EU Framework Programme 7

PROPHET

Postgraduate Research on Photonics as an Enabling Technology

Photonics, the generation and manipulation of light, is an important enabling technology for a diverse range of application areas; in 2006, the photonics industry in Europe accounted for revenues of €49 billion. *PROPHET* (*Postgraduate Research on Photonics as an Enabling Technology*) is an Initial Training Network funded by the EU Framework Programme 7 Marie Curie Actions, which aims to train the next generation of photonics researchers in the full range of skills required for a multi-disciplinary, industry-focused career in photonics.



The *PROPHET* network brings together a carefully-chosen, well-balanced consortium of 10 academic partners, 4 industry partners and 2 associated partners, with European and worldwide reputations as leaders in their fields. The network will train a cohort of 14 early stage researchers and 5 young experienced researchers in the full gamut of skills required for a career in photonics, including materials growth, device fabrication, characterisation, design, theory, and commercialisation.

The research will focus on specific applications of photonics technology in four diverse fields;

Photonics Enabling Communications Applications ➟ *Mode-Locked Lasers*

Photonics Enabling Energy Applications ➟ *Solar Cells*

Photonics Enabling Environment Applications ➟ *Gas Sensing*

Photonics Enabling Life Science Applications ➟ *Fast Tunable Lasers for OCT*

The *PROPHET* network will fund 14 Early Stage Researcher (Ph.D.) positions, and 5 young Experienced Researcher (postdoctoral) positions. These places offer an exceptional opportunity for young researchers to obtain a comprehensive training in photonics. The Marie Curie funding also includes a generous mobility and career exploration package. Hosted at a leading European research institute or industry partner, each Fellow will benefit from secondment visits to other network partners, and all Fellows will gain experience of working in industry. They will form the core of a vibrant, European-wide network of photonics researchers, with annual workshops, a summer school and a final project conference.

For further information, please visit the project website, *www.prophet-itn.eu*

PROPHET Postgraduate Research on Photonics as an Enabling Technology
A Marie Curie Initial Training Network

Marie Curie Actions - Initial Training Networks

The Marie Curie Actions are the EU's funding mechanism for supporting the mobility and career development of researchers across Europe. Since 1996, the Marie Curie Actions have helped thousands of researchers of all ages, nationalities and disciplines develop their careers and realise their research dreams – no other scheme in the world offers such a wide variety of opportunities to such a broad range of researchers. By doing this, the Marie Curie Actions also promote the transfer of knowledge and skills across national and sectoral borders, and crucially, advance excellence in research and innovation across Europe.

The *Initial Training Networks* are one particular Marie Curie Action, which supports early stage researchers. Each network consists of a consortium of research partners and industry, with an integrated training programme in a particular topic. The Marie Curie Actions then fund a number of early stage researcher positions within the network.

Marie Curie funding includes;

- A competitive salary adjusted to meet the cost of living in the host country
- Travel and mobility allowances for the fellow's own private travel and relocation costs
- A career exploratory allowance to help prepare for the next career step

In order to be eligible to apply for the ITN positions, a number of requirements must be met:

Early Stage Researchers

- Must be within the first four years (full-time equivalent) of their research career
- Must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host institution for more than 12 months in the three years immediately prior to their recruitment

Young Experienced Researchers

- Must *either* be in possession of a doctoral degree, irrespective of the time taken to acquire it; *or* have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience
- Must have less than 5 years of full-time equivalent research experience, measured from the date when they obtained the degree which formally entitles them to embark on a doctorate
- Must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host institution for more than 12 months in the three years immediately prior to their recruitment

For further information on the Marie Curie Actions, visit *http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions*

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Grant No.: 264687
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