



Appointment of Richard Clarke as new Director General of the PHABULOuS Pilot Line Association

The PHABULOuS Pilot Line Association is delighted to appoint Richard Clarke as its new Director General. In his new role, which takes effect on 1 February 2024, Richard's main focus will be to guide the association beyond the project (closing end of 2024) into a sustainable association.

Richard is a Chartered Accountant/MBA with substantial international, commercial and M&A experience. He has spent the majority of his career in senior executive roles in technology companies involved in aerospace, electronics, optics, semiconductors and nanomaterials. His experience includes international contract negotiations, bids/tenders, licensing, M&A/joint ventures, supply/outsourcing agreements and agency/distributor agreements. He is currently Finance Director of PowerPhotonic Limited, a manufacturer of advanced micro-optics for the laser industry, and since 2020, he has been a member of the PHABULOuS Pilot Line Association's Executive Board.

"I am honored to be appointed as the new Director General of The PHABULOuS Pilot Line," said Richard. "Over the past 4 years, PHABULOuS has successfully developed the infrastructure for pilot manufacturing of free-form micro-optical components. The aim now is to build on this achievement and ensure future commercial sustainability of the project."

Richard will be supported by Jessica van Heck who has been Managing Director of the Association for the past two years. In her new position as Chief Operating Officer, Jessica will remain in charge of daily operations and continue to support the Association in its transition phase.

As Jessica comments: "Richard brings a completely new skill set into the association and I am convinced that he is the right person to further guide the association. He has been with PHABULOuS from the beginning as a strong advocator towards collaboration in the field of free-form micro-optics and I am looking forward to continuing this journey towards a sustainable association together."

Toralf Scharf, President of Phabulous Pilot Line Association adds: "With the PHABULOuS Pilot Line Association now firmly established, it's time to shift up a gear and take a more market and commercialization-oriented approach. This will require strengthening selected competencies within the Association, and I am convinced that Richard is the best candidate to steer the Association's activities towards sustainable commercial success".

Bio of Richard Clarke

Richard Clarke has over 35 years' experience as Finance Director/CFO in public and private companies with a focus on technology and manufacturing, including optics; opto-electronics; compound semiconductors; nanomaterials; test, measurement and analysis equipment; engineering services and software. He has operated in aerospace, defence, bio-medical, telecoms and a broad range of industrial markets.

Richard has extensive corporate finance and commercial experience, including debt and equity financing, which included a successful flotation on the London AIM market, and mergers and acquisitions, having completed over 20 acquisitions as well as several joint-ventures and divestments. He has negotiated large commercial contracts and restructured supply chains and is familiar with intellectual property licensing, supply agreements and distribution agreements.

After qualifying as an accountant, Richard held senior roles in Dowty Aerospace before spending 7 years in Singapore as Finance Director of the Avimo electro optics group. He subsequently worked for IQE plc, Oxford Instruments plc and Nordson Corporation, Inc. In addition to Singapore, he has worked in the USA and in Switzerland. Since 2016 he has been Finance Director of PowerPhotonic Ltd, a leading manufacturer of freeform micro-optics for laser applications. He has also acted as a pension fund and charity trustee and for the last 4 years has been a coach and mentor for TechTour.

Richard has an economics degree from the University of London (UCL) and an MBA from the University of Bath.

About PHABULOuS

PHABULOuS is the European Pilot Line for the manufacturing of free-form micro-optical components. We provide highly advanced & robust manufacturing technology for optical free-form micro-structures and offers a full supply chain of leading research organizations and technology companies for accelerated innovation & production cycles from prototyping to large volume production. <https://phabulous.eu>

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