

MEMS & Imaging Sensors Summit

Welcome Remarks

L. Altimime
President
SEMI Europe, Berlin, Germany

Abstract

Coming Soon

Biography

Laith Altimime, as President of SEMI Europe, leads SEMI's activities in Europe and the Middle East and Africa (EMEA). Altimime has P&L responsibility as well as ownership of all Europe region programs and events, including SEMICON Europa. He is responsible for establishing industry standards, advocacy, community development, expositions, and programs. He provides support and services to SEMI members worldwide that have supply chain interests in Europe. He manages and nurtures relationships with SEMI members in the region and globally as well as with local associations and constituents in industry, government, and academia. Altimime has more than 30 years of international experience in the semiconductor industry. Prior to joining SEMI in 2015, He held senior leadership positions at NEC, KLA-Tencor, Infineon, Qimonda, and imec. Altimime holds an MSc from Heriot-Watt University, Scotland.

References

When the physical world meets AI: ST intelligent sensing at the core

L. Trollo

STMicroelectronics, Agrate Brianza, Italy

Abstract

The next wave of AI is not confined to the cloud or the screen — it is becoming physical, embedded in the objects, machines and environments that surround us. This is where **ST's intelligent sensing** sits at the core, transforming raw signals from the real world into actionable insights in real time.

Sensors enable a new class of **physical AI** applications: from predictive maintenance and smart mobility to robotics, industrial automation, and consumer devices that understand context and intention. Combining high-performance, low-power sensing with on-device AI and secure connectivity allows customers to move from data collection to local decision-making at the edge.

Biography

Lisa Trollo – Marketing and Communication manager, MEMS Sensors Subgroup
STMicroelectronics

After joining ST in 2012, Lisa contributed to several success stories in consumer, automotive and industrial markets, such as the massive Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) product deployment in the smartphone industry. Always working to help developers find the best solution for their applications, Lisa is currently in charge of our MEMS Ecosystem as well as Marketing Communication where she plays a key role in defining ST's Artificial Intelligence strategy for MEMS and sensors.

Lisa graduated with a Master's degree in Telecommunication Engineering in 2006 from The University of Trento, Italy.

References

Europe's first semiconductor VC fund

R. Kromhof
Founding Partner
Cloudberry VC, Helsinki, Finland



Abstract

Introduction to Cloudberry VC: Europe's First Semiconductor-Dedicated VC Fund

Europe leads the world in semiconductor research yet captures a fraction of the value when that research becomes a company. Too many promising deep tech teams stall in the gap between the lab and a first commercial cheque, and most generalist funds are not built to underwrite hardware risk on physics, fabrication, and long development cycles.

Cloudberry VC was founded to close that gap. As Europe's first venture fund dedicated to semiconductors, photonics, and advanced materials, we back founders at pre-seed and seed, the earliest and hardest stage to fund, and bring deep operator experience and strategic industry partners to help them reach the market. Our strategic LP base includes industry leaders such as GlobalFoundries and Radiant Opto-Electronics, giving portfolio companies direct access to manufacturing expertise, supply chain reach, and commercial relationships from day one.

This talk introduces who we are, why a specialist fund matters for European deep tech, what we look for in a team and a technology, and how we work alongside founders from first cheque onward. It is aimed at founders, researchers, and partners building the next generation of European semiconductor companies.

Biography

René Kromhof is Founding Partner of Cloudberry VC, Europe's first venture fund dedicated to semiconductors, photonics, and advanced materials. He brings more than two decades in the semiconductor and consumer electronics industry to backing deep tech founders at the earliest stages.

René spent seven years at ASML, where he worked at the heart of the lithography systems that underpin modern chipmaking. He later helped build Heptagon, a developer of optical sensing and micro-optics technology, through to its acquisition by ams AG in 2017. These experiences shaped his conviction that Europe's world-class semiconductor research deserves capital and partners that understand hardware.

At Cloudberry VC, René invests at pre-seed and seed in founders building the next generation of European chip, photonics, and materials companies, backed by strategic industry partners including GlobalFoundries. He is based in Helsinki and works with founders across Europe to take ambitious technology from the lab to the market.

References

Breaking the Volume Barrier in Mid-IR Photonics: From Specialized Sensors to Scalable Semiconductor Integration

A. Piotrowski

CEO

VIGO Photonics S.A., Ożarów Mazowiecki, Poland



Abstract

The Mid-Infrared (Mid-IR, 2–20 μm) spectral range holds immense promise for high-precision gas sensing, semiconductor metrology, environmental monitoring, and industrial IoT due to the distinct molecular "fingerprint" absorption bands located in this region. Despite its transformative potential, widespread commercial adoption of Mid-IR photonic devices has historically been constrained by fundamental industry barriers: high manufacturing costs, complex III-V and II-VI compound material engineering, the need for bulky cryogenic cooling, and a lack of standardized Photonic Integrated Circuit (PIC) platforms and micro-optical packaging.

This presentation outlines the key technological and manufacturing breakthroughs required to scale Mid-IR photonics from niche, high-cost applications to high-volume semiconductor manufacturing. We explore advances in High Operating Temperature (HOT) detector architectures, plasmonic-enhanced absorbers, and wafer-level epitaxy (MBE/MOCVD) transition to 4-inch and 6-inch fabrication lines. Furthermore, we address strategies for heterogeneous integration with CMOS platforms and scalable packaging methods aimed at reducing Size, Weight, and Power (SWaP). By bridging the gap between complex compound optoelectronics and mainstream semiconductor manufacturing workflows.

Biography

A graduate of Warsaw University of Technology in 2002 with a master's degree in electronics engineering. Holder of a Ph.D. degree in technical sciences obtained at the Military University of Technology in 2008. Since 2002, Adam Piotrowski has been working at VIGO Photonics S.A., introducing novel semiconductor production technologies to the company and managing its production. Since 2015, he has been acting as the President of the Board of VIGO Photonics S.A. and the President of the Polish Technological Platform on Photonics, being an Employer Association.

Since 2017, he has been a member of the Board of Stakeholders of the Photonics21 Partnership, taking an active participation in the European technological development of photonics and microelectronics.

He is the author of many publications on the methods of manufacture and application of the infrared detectors. He is responsible for the application development of novel sensor systems, especially laser-based, affordable gas detectors and analyzers. He took part in multiple national, European and pure industrial projects.

References

Chip-scale, Software-Defined Hyperspectral Intelligence

A. C. Liapis
CTO
Agate Sensors, Espoo, Finland



AGATE
SENSORS

Abstract

Coming Soon

Biography

Coming Soon

References

Boosting MEMS through technological development: from improved transduction to optomechanics

M. Sansa
Project Manager in Optomechanics
CEA, Leti, Grenoble, France



Abstract

Electrical microsensors (MEMS) have been gaining maturity and performance over the last 40 years, and they are nowadays ubiquitous in our everyday life. Recently, the integration of MEMS with silicon photonics gave birth to optomechanical MEMS (optically transduced microsensors), enabling a jump in performance in terms of readout sensitivity and frequency of operation. This combination opens the door to new sensing paradigms across various fields, and is rapidly maturing in terms of integration.

In this talk I will present the advantages of optomechanics for high-efficiency sensing, and showcase how CEA-Leti's developments have enabled novel applications in fields such as biosensing, environmental and biological monitoring, high-speed atomic-force microscopy (AFM) and precision timing with clocks.

Biography

Marc Sansa received his M.Sc. in Micro and Nanotechnologies from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in 2009 and his Ph.D. in Electronic Engineering from the same institution in 2013. He joined CEA-LETI in 2014 as a research engineer and currently serves as a project manager at the Sensors and Actuators Laboratory. He is an expert in microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) and optomechanics, he has authored over 65 publications and holds more than 18 patents. His research focuses on developing novel MEMS technologies by leveraging multiphysical approaches and collaborative efforts among multidisciplinary teams and experts from diverse fields.

References

Organic Image Sensors for Smart Rings and Medical Devices

J. Joimel
CEO
VSTech Sensors, Grenoble, France



Abstract

Wearable health monitoring and SWIR-based imaging share a common bottleneck: today's photoplethysmography (PPG) and image sensors are built on rigid silicon or III-V substrates that constrain form factor, cost, and spectral coverage. This talk presents organic photodiode (OPD) technology as a route past that bottleneck and shows how a single thin-film sensor platform is being developed across two applications — a flexible PPG sensor for smart rings, and a low-cost SWIR camera originally developed for drone vision that also opens a path toward SWIR fluorescence imaging in medical devices.

Technology

Organic photodiodes rely on a solution-processed, coatable active layer — a blended donor/acceptor bulk heterojunction sandwiched between hole- and electron-transport layers, an anode and a cathode, and a barrier encapsulation. This active layer can be deposited directly onto thin-film-transistor (TFT) backplanes on glass or polyimide, or onto CMOS read-out circuits, using standard coating equipment already used in the display and semiconductor industries. Because the photoactive stack is only a few hundred nanometers thick, the resulting sensor is sub-millimeter and mechanically flexible down to single-digit-millimeter bend radii. By tuning the absorber chemistry across three organic formulations, the same architecture covers the visible (380–700 nm), near-infrared (700–900 nm) and short-wave infrared (900–2500 nm, SWIR) bands without changing the backplane or camera design. VSTech holds an IP portfolio of 75 patents across 33 families covering the photoactive materials, device architecture and integration processes.

Application 1 — Smart rings

Continuous PPG monitoring inside a ring is limited by available surface area and by the rigidity of conventional silicon-photodiode-plus-LED packages, which push most rings on the market today toward an 8 mm width. VSTech's OPD sensor strip integrates three photodiode channels (4.75 mm² each) tuned to green, red and near-infrared wavelengths (530/660/940 nm) alongside an embedded LED, on a single flexible substrate only 3.3 mm wide and conformable down to a 6 mm bend radius. The multi-channel, multi-wavelength architecture is designed to improve measurement robustness, while the flexible thin-film substrate follows the ring's curvature without the mechanical stack-up of rigid dies. This sensor has been introduced as a demonstration of how organic photodiodes can reduce ring width while keeping three independent PPG channels.

Application 2 — SWIR camera: from drone vision to fluorescence imaging

The same coatable active layer, tuned into the SWIR band (1100–1500 nm), is being developed for a low-cost, cooling-free camera for drones, where SWIR vision improves usability in fog, rain and low-visibility conditions but has so far been limited by the cost of InGaAs sensors (commonly above \$10k per unit). By replacing the InGaAs detector with an OPD active layer coated onto a CMOS read-out circuit, the same pixel architecture can be produced at a fraction of the cost per unit area, at the expense of some performance relative to cooled InGaAs — a trade-off acceptable for single-mission or high-volume deployment. This drone-vision camera architecture is directly relevant to a second, medical use case: SWIR fluorescence imaging. Fluorescence agents such as indocyanine green (ICG) emit into the SWIR/NIR-II window (roughly 1000–1300 nm), where reduced tissue scattering and autofluorescence give sharper contrast and deeper penetration than the NIR-I (700–900 nm) window used by most current fluorescence-guided surgery cameras. A low-cost, uncooled SWIR sensor built on the same OPD-on-CMOS architecture developed for drone vision could lower the barrier to adopting SWIR fluorescence imaging in surgical and diagnostic instruments, an application VSTech is now exploring as an extension of its drone camera work.

Manufacturing and scale-up

Both applications rely on the same manufacturing logic: OPD active layers are applied by standard coating processes compatible with existing TFT and CMOS supply chains, allowing the same core sensor architecture to move from pilot-line production toward higher-volume manufacturing without requalifying the underlying device stack for each substrate or application.

What attendees will take away

This talk will cover the device physics and layer stack that give OPDs their spectral tunability, the design choices behind the smart ring and drone-vision SWIR camera described above, and the technical rationale for extending the same SWIR sensor toward fluorescence imaging applications.

Biography

Jerome Joimel is CEO and co-founder of VSTech Sensors, a French deep-tech company developing organic photodiode (OPD) sensors for smart rings, medical imaging, and low-cost SWIR cameras. He has spent more than 20 years in high-tech industries, taking technology from lab to pilot line to mass production and building international technical and operational teams.

Before co-founding VSTech in 2024, Jerome spent a decade at Isorg, the pioneer of OPD-based image sensors, where he held four successive roles: R&D Process Manager, Chief Technology Officer, VP Strategic Partnerships, and Chief Operating Officer. He built Isorg's OPD process and IP strategy from the ground up, co-authored seven patents on OPD processes and applications, led its Series C fundraising with two major Japanese investors, set up its China business development office in Shenzhen, and directed production and quality through the launch of the first OPD-based wearable sensor.

Earlier in his career, Jerome led development of the first fully flexible OTFT/OPD photodetector at Plastic Logic (Cambridge, UK) and worked on the technology transfer from its pilot line to mass production in Dresden, Germany. He began his career at Hewlett Packard's Printed Electronics Group in Ireland, working on thin-film testing and characterization on plastic substrates.

Jerome holds an Engineering degree (Master's level) in Electronics and Industrial Computing, from IFITEP / Université Pierre et Marie Curie – Paris 6. He has spoken at CES, SID Display Week, SEMI FLEX, LOPE-C, IDTechEx and other leading industry events.

References

Ultra miniaturized rechargeable solid-state micro battery technology for new generation of implantable medical devices

P. Andreucci
Chief Executive Officer
Injectpower, Moirans, France

Abstract

Powering the Future of Digital Health: Ultra-Miniaturized All-Solid-State Microbatteries for Next-Generation Implantable Medical Devices

The rise of digital health and personalized medicine has fueled an unprecedented demand for autonomous, smart implantable medical devices (IMDs). Monitoring and treating chronic pathologies—such as glaucoma in ophthalmology, intracranial pressure in neurosurgery, or arrhythmia in cardiology—require continuous, highly reliable physiological data tracking. However, traditional battery technologies represent a critical bottleneck, as their size, rigid form factors, and chemical leakage risks severely limit the miniaturization and safety of long-term implants.

This paper introduces INJECTPOWER's breakthrough energy solutions based on wireless rechargeable, all-solid-state microbatteries tailored specifically for high-density, ultra-miniaturized IMDs. Leveraging over 20 years of foundational R&D at CEA-Leti and protected by a robust portfolio of more than 40 patents, these microbatteries achieve dimensions as thin as a human hair while delivering unrivaled volumetric energy density and hermetic safety.

By eliminating liquid electrolytes, this all-solid-state chemistry eliminates the risk of toxic leakage, ensuring high biocompatibility and excellent thermal stability during wireless charging cycles (such as RF or inductive powering). This technology enables a new paradigm of completely autonomous, micro-scaled implants capable of providing continuous, representative medical data over years of implantation.

We will present the electrochemical performance, cycling stability, and integration architecture of these microbatteries. Finally, we will discuss the scaling-up strategy and industrial roadmap within the framework of the European IPCEI Health (Tech4Cure) program, leading toward a first certified commercial product on the market by 2029.

Biography

Philippe Andreucci

Co-founder & CEO of INJECTPOWER | Deep Tech Entrepreneur & Board Member

Biography

Philippe Andreucci is a seasoned deep-tech entrepreneur and executive leader with over 25 years of experience driving breakthrough innovations from laboratory research to global markets. Throughout his career, he has successfully operated at the intersection of micro-technologies, nanosystems, and life sciences, combining strong technical expertise with a proven track record in fundraising, corporate governance, and international business development.

Philippe began his leadership journey at **CEA-Leti**, a world-renowned microelectronics research institute, where he served as **Head of Nanosystems Programs**. During this tenure, he co-founded the **Alliance for Nanosystems VLSI**—a prestigious, multi-year international research collaboration between the **CEA** and the **California Institute of Technology (Caltech)**, established alongside **Professor Michael Roukes**.

Driven by an entrepreneurial vision, Philippe transitioned from institutional leadership to venture creation. He co-founded and led **APIX Analytics**, a company specializing in miniaturized gas chromatography systems for industrial and environmental applications. Under his leadership as CEO, APIX successfully industrialized its technology, raised significant venture capital and additional fundings, and established a strong international footprint.

Following this success, Philippe co-founded **INJECTPOWER** in 2020, a pioneering deep-tech company disrupting the implantable medical device sector. The company manufactures ultra-miniaturized, wireless rechargeable all-solid-state microbatteries that provide autonomy to a new generation of monitoring and treatment solutions for chronic diseases (such as glaucoma, cardiovascular, and neurological disorders). Under his guidance, INJECTPOWER secured a strategic position within the prestigious **European IPCEI Health (Tech4Cure)** program, established key commercial partnerships in the US, and is currently on track for its first product certification by 2029.

An active figure in the tech ecosystem, Philippe serves as a **Board Member for several high-growth startups**, where he provides strategic counsel on corporate scaling, venture financing, and intellectual property management.

Core Expertise

Deep Tech Entrepreneurship & Leadership: Proven ability to build, fund, and scale companies with highly complex, hardware-and-software integrated technologies.

International Ecosystem Building: Established track record of forging high-level academic and industrial alliances between Europe and the United States (e.g., Caltech, US clinical partners).

Venture Capital & Corporate Finance: Expert in structuring mixed financing strategies, combining multi-million dollar equity rounds (VC) with non-dilutive sovereign funding (IPCEI, state grants).

Governance & Advisory: Experienced board member guiding early-stage and scaling startups through critical pivots, IP valorization, and growth phases.

Vision Statement: *"Miniaturized, reliable energy is the true gateway to tomorrow's digital health. By giving implantable devices the power to monitor chronic conditions autonomously, we are shifting medicine from reactive treatments to proactive, life-saving data intelligence."*

References

Topic Coming Soon

A. Traverso
Chief Scientist
Neurophos Inc., Austin, United States of America

Abstract

Coming Soon

Biography

Coming Soon

References

Innovation in MEMS-industry, where do we come from and where are we going

T. Vilenius
Senior Manager, Business Development
Automotive
Murata Electronics Oy, Vantaa, Finland



Abstract

Small reflexion on how has innovation in MEMS business changed over the past 30 years. Starting from innovating how to realize a function on silicon, then how to make it for less than \$100 and miniaturizing the sensors to fit inside a smartphone.

What is MEMS innovation today and how we need to innovate in future to create value for the whole supply chain & industry.

Biography

Tommi Vilenius has been working in Automotive MEMS business for 30 years in various roles from R&D, Quality, Testing and Customer interface. Currently Mr Vilenius is focusing on new automotive applications for inertial MEMS and fitting together physical MEMS devices to ever improving capabilities of data processing & AI.

References

NEMS-Based Inertial Sensors: Enabling Navigation-Grade Performance for High-Volume Autonomous Applications

P. Robert
CEO
INGAGE, Grenoble, France



Abstract

Reliable navigation remains a critical challenge for autonomous systems operating in environments where GNSS signals are unavailable or degraded. From autonomous vehicles and drones to industrial robots, accurate positioning requires inertial sensors capable of maintaining navigation performance during extended GNSS outages.

While MEMS inertial sensors have become ubiquitous thanks to their compact size, low power consumption and low manufacturing cost, their performance remains insufficient for many navigation-grade applications. Conversely, existing high-end inertial solutions deliver the required accuracy but are often too bulky and expensive for deployment in high-volume markets.

This presentation introduces a new generation of MEMS inertial sensors based on ultra-sensitive nano-strain-gauge transduction technology. Developed over more than 15 years of research at CEA-Leti and protected by an extensive patent portfolio, this breakthrough sensing approach significantly enhances the detection of mechanical motion and enables performance levels beyond the limits of conventional capacitive MEMS technologies.

The talk will present the fundamental principles of nano-strain-gauge sensing, its integration into MEMS accelerometers and gyroscopes, and the expected benefits in terms of bias stability, noise performance, scale-factor stability and overall inertial navigation accuracy. Particular attention will be given to the challenges associated with transferring advanced laboratory technology into a manufacturable industrial solution compatible with high-volume semiconductor processes.

The presentation will also provide an overview of the technology industrialization roadmap pursued by iNGage, a fabless Deeptech company founded in 2025 to bring this innovation to market. By combining navigation-grade performance with MEMS scalability, nano-strain-gauge inertial sensors have the potential to unlock a new generation of cost-effective navigation systems for autonomous mobility, robotics and other demanding positioning applications.

Biography

Philippe Robert is CEO and co-founder of iNGage, a deeptech startup developing a new generation of high-performance MEMS sensors. He holds a PhD in Microtechnologies and began his career at the startup SILMAG, developing advanced magnetic sensor technologies for data storage, before joining THALES to work on high-end MEMS inertial sensors for aerospace and defense applications.

He joined CEA-Leti in 2001, where he held successive leadership roles, including Head of the MEMS Sensors Laboratory and Head of the Microsystems Department (120+ people), before leading Business Development for Microsystems.

In 2025, he founded iNGage as CEO & CTO, leading corporate strategy, fundraising, and execution. He has authored over 50 scientific publications and holds more than 60 patents, including more than 20 related to the M&NEMS architecture at the core of iNGage's innovation.

Philippe also contributes to the international MEMS community through expert evaluations (HCERES, EIC) and leadership roles in major conferences such as IEEE MEMS, IEEE Transducers, and Eurosensors.

References

Coming Soon

A. José Carimatto
Pi Imaging Technology, Vaud, Switzerland



Abstract

Coming Soon

Biography

Coming Soon

References

Design and Manufacturing by NIL of a Meta-Optics Camera

B. Kamino
Manager Business Development and Strategy
NIL Technology, Horgen, Switzerland

Abstract

Meta-optics are emerging as a powerful technology platform for next-generation imaging and sensing systems, enabling optical performance and form factors that are difficult to achieve with conventional refractive optics. By controlling light through engineered nanoscale structures, meta-optics offer new opportunities for applications such as augmented reality, eye tracking, machine vision, and advanced optical sensing. However, translating these high-performance designs into scalable, manufacturable products still remains an open challenge.

This presentation will describe how NIL Technology (NILT) addresses this challenge through meta-optics lens architectures and a manufacturing platform built for industrial-scale production. As a dedicated meta-optics foundry, NILT provides a complete pathway from prototyping to high-volume manufacturing, supported by vertically integrated capabilities including electron beam lithography, nanoimprint lithography, etch processing, metrology, testing, and optical integration.

The presentation will examine the relationship between design, manufacturing, and optical performance, demonstrating how mature design-for-manufacturing methodologies enable close agreement between simulation, prototype results, and volume production. NILT's nanoimprint-based manufacturing approach is critical to achieving state-of-the-art performance in scalable meta-optics products. Using this unique manufacturing process, NILT has demonstrated excellent process stability, wafer-to-wafer reproducibility, and scalability to production volumes in the millions of units.

A case study of the commercially available metaEye™ ultra-compact eye-tracking camera will highlight how meta-optics can reduce system size, improve thermal stability, simplify optical assemblies, and deliver robust imaging performance in demanding real-world environments.

Finally, the presentation will outline NILT's foundry model for commercializing meta-optics. NILT's mature and proven design rules for meta-optical elements ensure predictable optical performance from initial design through prototyping to high-volume production. Adding to this are NILT's open-access module architectures, which enable customers to build custom meta-optic modules based on proven designs. Whether customers bring their own designs, want to customize module solutions based on NILT's architectures, or seek a complete custom solution, NILT provides the infrastructure and manufacturing expertise required to take meta-optical products from concept to volume production.

Biography

Brett Kamino is Manager, Business Development and Strategy at NILT, where he works on commercializing meta-optics technology. Brett has a background in thin-film semiconductors, next-generation solar cells, and nanophotonics, and has spent his career working across both the technical and commercial sides of emerging technology, first developing the underlying technology and now focusing on the business strategy, partnerships, and market positioning needed to bring it from the lab to commercial products.

References

Coming Soon

P. Hammond
KLA, Wales, United Kingdom

Abstract

Coming Soon

Biography

Coming Soon

References

Beyond Perception: How MEMS Sensors Redefine Our Experience

D. Domdey
Director Sensor Development
Bosch Sensortec, Reutlingen, Germany

Abstract

What if sensors could not only perceive the world but help define how humans and machines experience it? From wearables and smart devices to next-generation robotics and immersive digital realities, MEMS technology is emerging as a key enabler of future innovation. This presentation discover how Bosch Sensortec's diverse sensing roadmap combines breakthrough hardware, software, and AI to create tailored solutions for an ever-expanding universe of applications, featuring the latest generation of high-performance IMUs that push the boundaries of motion perception and contextual intelligence. Together, we will explore how tiny silicon structures are becoming the foundation of tomorrow's connected, intelligent, and increasingly autonomous world.

Biography

Desislava Domdey is Director of MEMS Consumer Sensor Development at Bosch Sensortec, where she leads global teams developing and bringing to scale next-generation Inertial Measurement Units (IMUs). She began her career at Bosch in 2008 as a MEMS design engineer, specializing in modeling and system simulation, and quickly progressed through leadership roles spanning customer projects, application support, and product management in the automotive sector. Today, she combines deep technical expertise with a strong business perspective to drive innovation from concept to high-volume production. Her work focuses on translating cutting-edge MEMS technologies into scalable solutions for real-world applications. A recent highlight is the successful 2024 launch of the world's smallest accelerometer. Originally from Sofia, Bulgaria, Desislava has lived in Germany since 2001 and resides with her family in Reutlingen.

References

The Optical Interface Between Human and AI: Rethinking the Power Problem for AI Eyewear.

T. Koch
Chief Business Officer
AlphaLum SA, Lausanne, Switzerland

ALPHALUM

Abstract

Every smart glasses maker is fighting the same battle: power. A display drains the battery. Running AI to understand what the user wants drains it further, typically through power-hungry cameras and inference pipelines that can't realistically stay on all day, and even when they do run continuously, low frame rates miss the fast, subtle signals that actually carry intent. Most solutions optimize one side of this equation, a more efficient display, or a lower-power sensor, but treat the other as someone else's problem. AlphaLum optimizes both, on a single optical platform.

Our holographic combiner architecture delivers a step-change in display efficiency, easing the power cost of getting information in front of the eye. At the same time, our optical micromotion sensing platform reads subtle eye and skin signals directly, combining always-on operation with high temporal resolution, capturing fast micromotions continuously rather than trading one for the other, at a fraction of the power of camera-based AI interaction. The result is a combiner that cuts power on both the output and the input side of the human-AI loop, without forcing a choice between staying on and seeing enough.

This talk covers why power has to be solved on both sides of the interaction, not just the display, why the combination of always-on and high temporal resolution is the precondition for genuinely useful AI interaction on the face, and what that means for how AR glasses get designed, built, and scaled toward true all-day wear.

Biography

Tanja Koch is the co-founder and Chief Business Officer of AlphaLum, a deep-tech photonics startup based in Lausanne developing next-generation optical systems for smart glasses. She brings over nine years of experience across startup founding, venture capital, and innovation strategy, with a particular focus on the AR hardware space.

Before AlphaLum, Tanja served as Senior Product Manager at ams OSRAM, one of the world's leading optical semiconductor companies, where she gained direct experience bringing complex photonic and sensing technologies from R&D to market. That industry grounding, combined with her background as both a founder and a venture capitalist, gives her an unusual vantage point: she understands what it takes to build deep-tech products from the inside, and what it takes to scale and commercialize them.

Tanja holds a Master of Science in Management from the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and has continued her education at Stanford University. Her academic foundation in design thinking and user-driven innovation shapes how AlphaLum approaches product development: starting from real user constraints, including power, form factor, and all-day wearability, rather than from technology capabilities alone.

At AlphaLum, she leads business development, partnerships, and go-to-market strategy as the company advances its two core platforms: an ultra-efficient holographic waveguide display and an always-on optical micromotion sensing system, together forming a bidirectional interface layer between humans and AI.

References