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**For Immediate
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Department of Defense Chooses New National Headquarters for Integrated Photonics Innovation

July 29, 2015 (Rochester, NY) - Driven by the need to meet domestic sourcing requirements of the United States Military, Rochester, New York has dominated the field of optical engineering for over 100 years. Now, after an extensive Department of Defense-sponsored competition, Rochester NY has been selected as headquarters for the Integrated Photonics Institute for Manufacturing Innovation (IP-IMI) which the nation will look to for the technology of the future.

Rochester, NY-based Photonics Center Poised to Receive \$610 Million in Funding

The total award is comprised of \$110 million in federal funding and \$500 million in private industry and NY State funding. In addition to bringing the prospect of thousands of new jobs in the Rochester area, it is anticipated that the IP-IMI will greatly benefit both the national economy and homeland security by breaking new ground in the research and development of advanced photonics technologies.

LaserMax joined several companies in aiding the establishment of the IP-IMI. "LaserMax is proud to serve the Department of Defense with state-of-the-art photonics technology," said Dr. Susan Houde-Walter, CEO of LaserMax. "The IP-IMI will advance Rochester's continued leading role in the invention, design and manufacture of optics and photonics technology."

Former President of the Optical Society of America and Full Professor of Optical Science & Engineering at the acclaimed University of Rochester (1987-2005), Dr. Houde-Walter left teaching to become CEO at LaserMax, the company she co-founded with her husband in 1989 (source). Over the past ten years, Houde-Walter's primary focus has been on furtherance of her company's defense technologies.

For more information:

- [1. Optics history, dominance here paved way for photonics](#)
- [2. Defense Department chooses Rochester for photonics center](#)
- [3. Photonics Institute Will be a "Game-Changer" for the Region's Economy](#)
- [4. Rochester Wins Photonics Institute](#)
- [5. Biden, Cuomo in Rochester to give details on New York photonics hub](#)
- [6. Photonics center will be in Greece, NY](#)
- [7. Rochester score photonics headquarters](#)

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About LaserMax

Now in its 26th year, LaserMax is a leading innovator of premium laser systems with a growing portfolio of significant patents. Specializing in the design and manufacture of rugged and innovative firearm sighting solutions for military, law enforcement and commercial markets worldwide, the company also delivers premium laser products and optical systems for the semiconductor, aerospace, biomedical and telecommunications industries. LaserMax is an ISO 9001:2008 certified and WOSB 8(m) certified Women-Owned Small Business and was recently recognized as one of the fastest growing companies in the U.S. by Inc. 500 | 5000.

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