

Workshop: Quantum Photonics for Startups & SMEs

Location: Maastricht Exhibition & Conference Centre (MECC)

Date: 17-07-2026 | 11:00 - 16:00

More information about the workshop: [Event | Quantum Photonics for Startups & SMEs | ChipNL Competence Centre](#)

Organized by: [ChipNL CC](#), [FiCCC](#), [AT-C3](#)

Discover the speakers

Tomi Salo



Tomi Salo is an experienced microtechnology professional with a strong history of working in the sensor and measurement manufacturing industry. Currently, he is utilizing the experience to support companies, especially startups and SEMs, in their path to success.

Short abstract: Finland's export-heavy semiconductor industry is based on strong experiences of science-based RDI. To accelerate from this track record, the industry requires focused efforts. FiCCC (Finnish Chips Competence Centre) activities target key areas in the growth path.

Ronan Gourgues



Ronan has more than 10 years of experience in the development of superconducting single-photon detectors. He is passionate about pushing the performance limits of these detectors and exploring innovative applications that can benefit from their unique capabilities.

Short abstract: This presentation will provide an introduction to Single Quantum and its portfolio of superconducting single-photon detectors. It will review the key performance metrics of these detectors and demonstrate how their unique capabilities enable demanding applications, including space communications and bio-imaging.

Dirk van Meer



Dirk van Meer is Funding Specialist for the ChipNL Competence Centre at Oost NL, where he supports deeptech startups, scale-ups and SMEs in navigating the deeptech funding landscape. With a background as founder, startup coach and ecosystem builder, he focuses on translating strong technology into a credible growth, funding and investor case.

Short abstract: Funding for deeptech companies is not just about finding the right subsidy or investor; it is about timing, positioning and building a case that fits the stage of the company. In this talk, Dirk will give a practical overview of relevant public funding routes and investor options, and share how startups and SMEs can strengthen their proposition before approaching programmes, funds or ecosystem partners.

Jyrki Saarinen



Professor Jyrki Saarinen has built extensive international research and industry networks across academia, startups, and global corporations. In societies, his leadership positions include the European Optical Society, Photonics21, Photonics Finland, the Finnish Physical Society, and the Optica Fellowship for technical innovation and leadership in entrepreneurship, commercialization, and strategic development in photonics businesses.

Short abstract: Finland has established a strong national photonics ecosystem strongly interconnected with semiconductor and quantum technology sectors. Examples of collaborative activities etc. will be highlighted.

Helene Hainzer



Helene Hainzer is Senior Knowledge Broker for Quantum Technologies at the University of Vienna and the Vienna Center for Quantum Science and Technology (VCQ). After earning her PhD in experimental quantum physics, she transitioned from research into innovation, where she now works at the interface of quantum science, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship.

As co-lead of the quantum innovation lab, she supports researchers and early-stage quantum technology ventures in exploring entrepreneurial opportunities, developing their ideas beyond the lab, and connecting with mentors, industry partners, and investors. Beyond this, she contributes to the broader development of Austria's quantum ecosystem by raising awareness of the potential of quantum technologies and fostering connections between key stakeholders across research, industry, investment, and policy.

Short abstract:

This talk provides an overview of Austria's quantum innovation ecosystem, from its excellent research landscape to its growing startup community. It will highlight how initiatives in technology transfer and entrepreneurship help bridge the gap between research and innovation, with a particular focus on the Quantum Innovation Lab, Austria's entrepreneurship program for quantum technologies, and other initiatives led by the University of Vienna and the Vienna Center for Quantum Science and Technology (VCQ).

Martijn Heck



Martijn Heck obtained his PhD in electrical engineering from Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands, on the topic of photonic integration. Since 2020 he has been a full professor here. Previously, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Free University of Amsterdam (2008-2009) and the University of California Santa Barbara, US (2009 – 2013), and an Associate Professor at Aarhus University, Denmark (2013 – 2020)

Short abstract: Integrated photonics is maturing and real-world applications are emerging in greater numbers. Among these are applications in datacom, AI and computing, sensing and metrology, and also quantum. In this talk I will discuss the capabilities of the technologies and where the developments are going.

Peter-Jan Hendriks



Peter-Jan Hendriks - working at the Casimir institute at the Tu/e in Eindhoven.

My role as a IPM, Institute program manager on Semicon equipment, I am connecting and collaborating this Institute with researchers, other institute and the industry.

With more than 15 years of experience, I want to help ensure that we support the EU Semicon industry and help it grow into an independent and progressive industry.

Borislav Hinkov



Staff Scientist of Integrated Photonics Technologies, Silicon Austria Labs, Villach, Austria

Silicon Austria Labs Coordinator in AT-C3, responsible for European Network Access

Borislav Hinkov studied physics at the university of Freiburg (Germany) and conducted his PhD studies in physics at ETH Zurich (Switzerland) on the topic of optoelectronic devices for the mid-infrared (MIR) spectral range graduating in 2015. He then moved TU Wien (Austria) for almost 8 years, where he established a sub-group on MIR photonic integrated circuits (PICs). Borislav then joined Silicon Austria Labs (SAL) in Villach in 2023 where he is responsible for the development of novel MIR PICs for applications such as atmospheric gas sensing, bio-chemical fluid analysis and free-space communication. In AT-C3 Borislav is leading the SAL activities which are focused at contributing to the EU semiconductor chips ecosystem development, interaction and collaboration with the European chips industry and the other national chips competence centers as well as general networking activities.