

FOREWORD

This volume collects the contributions to the forth edition of WFOPC, the Workshop on Fibres and Optical Passive Components held in Mondello (Palermo), June 22-24 2005, promoted and organised by the IEEE LEOS Italian Chapter and CRES of Monreale (Palermo) - Italy.

From the success of the previous editions of WFOPC, and from the appreciation of attendees and colleagues of the LEOS Society, we have been encouraged to continue in trying to bring together periodically the scientific community working on fibres and passive components. Judging from the substantial increase in the number of papers respect to the third edition, our effort has been amply rewarded. Also, this forth edition of WFOPC has attracted a good number of exhibitors and sponsors

The field of passive components continues to stand out as a very active area, an area critical to the success of new developments and one with a big added value as it is the enabling technology of virtually any system and application – just think of DWDM Nx10Gbit/s and Nx40Gbit/s transmissions, optical networking, low cost and high capacity LANs, etc. All these applications call for new fibres - NZD, DCF, low PMD fibres - and a lot of optical passive components and modules - Fiber Bragg Gratings, Array Waveguide Gratings, variable attenuators, Add Drop Multiplexer, Optical Cross Connect, etc. All these components are actively developed internationally in order to improve performances, reliability and yield, aiming to reduce costs and the time-to-market.

We wish to thank the colleagues of the Steering Committee and of the Technical Programme Committee for their precious suggestions in shaping the Conference as well as for their careful review of the submitted papers, and, of course, all the Authors contributing with their efforts to what we believe a very interesting and top-quality programme.

Last, without the enthusiastic work of the staff of CRES, WFOPC couldn't have been that smoothly running Conference we desired to offer to colleagues and friends.

We wish all attendees to WFOPC and the readers of this book an enjoyable and profitable reading.

Stefano Riva-Sanseverino
(SC Chairperson)

Massimo Artiglia
(TPC Chairperson)