



Michigan Photonics Cluster

115 Holmes Road  
Ypsilanti, 48198

Press Release  
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## Mi-Light Displays AT the Ann Arbor Optical Society

On March 27, Mi-Light participated in the Optics & Photonics Industry Snapshot and Outreach event held at the Michigan Union Rogel Ballroom in Ann Arbor. It was a wonderful opportunity to network with many companies, faculty, and students. Several Mi-Light companies were exhibitors: Baker College, IMRA, IPG, Lumenflow, Michigan Aerospace, and Thorlabs. The ballroom had plenty of space for everyone and the food was delicious.

The Keynote Speaker was Prof Emeritus, James Wyant. He is the founding Dean of the College of Optical Sciences, University of Arizona, and 4D Technology, AZ. On the heels of the OSA's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, James talked about how exciting it is to be a part of 'this old science' with its new applications, growth, and career opportunities.

James shared his wisdom on what is most important about starting a company in optics and photonics.

- Have a product that people want to buy – Not everyone gets this one right.
- Be willing to do what it takes – 'Doing companies is a disease!'
- Be good at hiring people
- Have good timing
- Have good luck

He was a founder of WYKO, <https://wp.optics.arizona.edu/jcwyant/miscellaneous/wyko>, provider of phase-shifting interference microscopes to measure the performance of all kinds of products.

James went on to explain that the vibrations issues with WYKO products led him to develop another product with a new company called 4-D Technology, <https://.4dtechnology.com>. The product was a single-shot phase-measurement interferometer. It was used to measure large optics like the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). '4D Technology designs and manufactures laser interferometers, surface roughness profilers, polarization cameras, and surface gauges, for accurate measurement of optics, optical systems, and precision machined surfaces. Their metrology products utilize state-of-the-art technology that can be deployed in production environments, even in the presence of severe vibration and turbulence.'

James has had an extensive career and is a very entertaining presenter. The audience really enjoyed hearing all about his optics and photonics adventures in developing products, starting companies, being an accomplished professor.



Ann Arbor Optical Society Optics & Photonics Industry Snapshot and Outreach Event



Mi-Light Booth, Michelle Stock, Chair, greeting visitors