ACTPHAST4R opens a contest for entrepreneurially-minded researchers working in any scientific domain in any European research organisation with a breakthrough concept that they would like to innovate further and where photonics is a key enabling technology for their innovation.

WHAT'S ACTPHAST4R

ACTPHAST4R (ACTPHAST for Researchers) is a 4-year EU initiative built around photonics, the science of creating, manipulating, transmitting and detecting light.

Photonics are literally everywhere, from smartphone displays to fibre-optic broadband to energy-saving LED lights to the laser surgery that saves our life. As light particles (known as photons) replace electrons in many of our most important technologies, innovations already in the pipeline will improve healthcare, grow food, save energy, cut pollution, expand connectivity, transform manufacturing and usher in a new era of mobility.

ACTPHAST4R is specifically designed to providing access for photonics and non-photonics researchers to the advanced photonics technology platforms in order to demonstrate their conceptual breakthroughs with industrially-relevant equipment.

WHY THE CONTEST?

ACTPHAST4R offers the research community around Europe the UNIQUE opportunity to enroll a contest open to a selected number of entrepreneurially-minded researchers eager to get the most out the advanced photonics technology platforms in order to demonstrate their conceptual breakthroughs with industrially-relevant equipment.

WHAT'S IN FOR ENTREPRENEURIALLY-MINDED RESEARCHERS?

What can the researcher win with the contest?

- Specialist photonics technology coaching from top experts coming from Europe’s leading photonics research centres.
- Business coaching support from an experienced senior business developer with a strong track record in helping researchers and companies to achieve success with their photonics innovation ambitions.
- Innovation project support to the value of 60,000€ from the ACTPHAST4R 1 partners to help develop a demonstrator for your photonics-enabled breakthrough concept.
- Internship at one of the ACTPHAST4R partners’ state-of-the-art facilities for customised hands-on experience/training in working with the targeted photonics technology platform as part of the specific innovation project.

1 ACTPHAST4R aims to support researchers who have a conceptional breakthrough and would like to realize their prototype (or some components for their prototype) with mature photonics technologies. This project is supported by the EU. (Grant Agreement No. 825051)
- Visibility in the large pan-European photonics ecosystem of researchers, companies and investors organised by ACTPHAST in order to help promote researcher’s innovation project and connect with key people to advance it further.

**How can researchers apply? (submission deadline is 25 June 2021):**

- 2-stage process (2 rounds) to apply for this contest
  1) Completion of a short application form via [https://forms.gle/qcMeqsQ4YG2wjop79](https://forms.gle/qcMeqsQ4YG2wjop79) including contact details, 5 questions (with max 250 words' answers) and a short CV of the Researcher to be attached
  2) **Pitch to ACTPHAST4R photonics experts and business developers** by a short-list of selected researchers from the Stage 1 applications: In an online session, each researcher will give a 10-minute pitch presentation followed by a 10-minute Q&A session.

**MORE QUESTIONS?** Mail to YOUR local EEN: [https://een.ec.europa.eu/](https://een.ec.europa.eu/)