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## INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE LEADERS LAUNCH A GLOBAL PLEDGE TO TRUST SCIENCE



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



International  
Day of Light  
16 May

Trieste (ots) -

***A central message of the International Day of Light 2021 will encourage the public expression of confidence in the scientific process***

NEWS RELEASE BY INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT STEERING COMMITTEE

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Ahead of this year's International Day of Light celebration on 16 May, the International Day of Light Steering Committee announces the launch of the [Trust Science](#) pledge, a worldwide campaign to promote support for the scientific process and to acknowledge the many benefits of science for society.

Crises such as the coronavirus pandemic demonstrate the importance of scientific research and remind us how much we depend on dedicated professionals to find evidence-based solutions to global challenges. To recognize the central role played by science in society, the Trust Science pledge invites the general public to join leading scientists worldwide to affirm confidence in the process of scientific research and discovery.

To date, the pledge has seen enthusiastic support worldwide with founding signatories including Nobel laureates, UNESCO L'Oréal For Women in Science prize winners, Presidents and CEOs of major scientific bodies, as well as scientists and students from more than 20 different countries. The pledge is now being shared widely to invite all interested individuals to take part.

The Trust Science pledge states: "Trust in evidence-based, scientific facts is essential for providing sustainable solutions to today's challenges. By adding my name to this declaration and pledge, I recognize the key role that scientific research and discovery plays in improving quality of life for all."

The Trust Science campaign is organized by the [IEEE Photonics Society](#), [SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics](#), and [The Optical Society \(OSA\)](#), together with the [International Day of Light Steering Committee](#).

"The events of the past year have spotlighted science's crucial role in solving critical global problems," said Steering Committee Chair John Dudley from the Université Bourgogne Franche-Comté in France. "This campaign will allow people around the world to join us in affirming support for science and the scientific process. We encourage all to sign, and our hope is that this will stimulate valuable discussions within families, at the workplace and in educational settings."

In the context of the International Day of Light, the campaign will also highlight a number of [Champions](#), research leaders in broad areas of light science and technology, including solar energy, the study of cultural heritage and healthcare.

To sign the pledge and to learn more, please go to <https://www.trust-science.org>

Contacts

For questions about how you can engage with the campaign, please contact: [info@trust-science.org](mailto:info@trust-science.org)

For media enquiries, please contact: [pr@trust-science.org](mailto:pr@trust-science.org)

Social media: please share using #TrustScience and #LightDay2021

Social media links: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)

### **About the International Day of Light**

The International Day of Light (IDL) is a worldwide initiative that provides an annual focal point for the continued appreciation of light and the role it plays in science, culture and art, education and sustainable development, and in fields as diverse as medicine, communications and energy. The International Day of Light is administered from the International Basic Science Programme (IBSP) of UNESCO by a Steering Committee that includes representatives from a broad range of international partners: the American Institute of Physics (AIP), the American Physical Society (APS), Bosca, the China International Optoelectronic Exhibition (CIOE), Chinese Optical Society (COS), the European Centres for Outreach in Photonics (ECOP), the European Photonics Industry Consortium (EPIC), the European Physical Society (EPS), the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES), the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the IEEE Photonics Society (IPS), the International Commission on Illumination (CIE), [lightsources.org](http://lightsources.org) - the international network of accelerator based light sources, Light: Science and Applications, The Optical Society (OSA), Tampere University, SPIE, the International Society for Optics and Photonics, SESAME, Signify, Tampere University, Transitions, the Université de Franche-Comté and Velux.

For information about the International Day of Light, please visit [www.lightday.org](http://www.lightday.org)

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### **About IEEE Photonics Society**

The IEEE Photonics Society is the professional home for a global network of scientists, engineers and allied professionals who advance laser, optoelectronics, and photonics technology. As a technical society representing the IEEE, it is a vital part of the world's largest technical professional organization of more than 400,000 members dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. Through its highly cited publications, conferences, technology standards, educational activities, and humanitarian initiatives, the IEEE Photonics Society provides its members in more than 160 countries the opportunity to grow professionally and stay on the forefront of transformational breakthroughs in photonics. [PhotonicsSociety.org](http://PhotonicsSociety.org)

### **About SPIE**

SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, was founded in 1955 to advance light-based technologies. Serving more than 255,000 constituents from 183 countries, the not-for-profit society advances emerging technologies through interdisciplinary information exchange, continuing education, publications, patent precedent, and career and professional growth. SPIE annually organizes and sponsors approximately 25 major technical forums, exhibitions, and education programs in North America, Europe, Asia, and the South Pacific. In 2020, SPIE provided more than \$5 million in support of education and outreach programs. [www.spie.org](http://www.spie.org)

### **About The Optical Society**

Founded in 1916, The Optical Society (OSA) is the leading professional organization for scientists, engineers, students and business leaders in light science and technology. The society serves over 432,000 customers and 22,000 members from more than 100 countries who fuel discoveries, shape real-life applications and accelerate achievements in the field. OSA provides quality research, inspired interactions and dedicated resources for its extensive global network of optics and photonics experts through world-renowned publications. For more information, visit [osa.org](http://osa.org).

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