



The joy of living cannot be proven. It must be felt.

Heinrich von Kleist

CEO's Note

Dear Reader,

There is no doubt that the recent floodings, e.g. by Hurricane Ida or in Ahrweiler Germany, were terrible for the people involved. The disaster in Ahrweiler happened within minutes of warning time. It came like a stroke (refer to my comment in the Chips issue of August 2021). In the case of the hurricane Ida, it was a bit different. Everyone was concerned initially about the possible impact on New Orleans, and instead for a week we watched a gigantic storm march across the United States; unstoppable and truly frightening. We saw in no uncertain terms, the might of mother nature. With all due respect, anyone who believes that we can have a decisive impact on nature in terms of stopping or controlling such power must have a self-image that defies all reason.

However, do we really learn from such terrible events? Probably not. Will the same communities, which suffered so much, face more terrible flooding

in the future? Probably. Will future terrible flooding be caused by "global warming"? Perhaps. But we have to state (and accept), that much of the damage is self-made as our cities and towns continue to expand into areas that are known flood plains. In a very practical way, we have confronted mother nature. Growth is natural. Cities want growth and will grow. But such growth without the proper attention paid to the dangers is a breach of duty. And individuals who knowingly settle in flood plains must be made to understand the dangers they face.

We don't often hear reasoned voices regarding our environment. There is more to do than just reducing CO2. We have to take our environment seriously, and understand, that mother nature is far above everyone. Including politicians.

Will any "leaders" after these latest disaster address the real issues in their areas? Does anyone want to take a bet?

Beat De Coi

ESPROS Photonics starts a collaboration with PreAct Technologies

ESPROS has entered a collaboration agreement with the Oregon-based PreAct Technologies, to develop next-generation near-field sensing solutions for automotive, trucking, industrial automation and robotics.

The collaboration combines the dynamic abilities of PreAct's software-definable flash LiDAR and the versatile and ultra-ambient-light-robust time-of-flight technology from ESPROS.



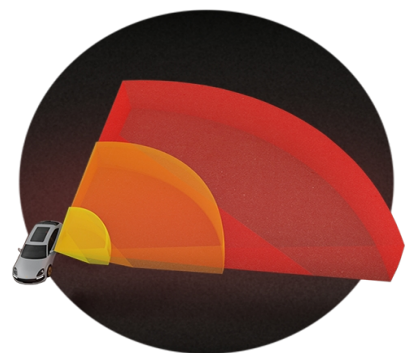
"We have extensive plans to demonstrate the incredible capabilities of our 3D chipsets with PreAct's hardware and software. This partnership will ensure that customers can benefit from the shortest possible time to market for ad-

vanced tools such as simulation. Our combined resources and expertise will allow us to enable groundbreaking products across every industry," said Beat DeCoi, President and CEO of ESPROS Photonics. "By combining our best in class TOF chips with PreAct's innovation and drive, we will see great results."

"Our partnership with ESPROS is a major milestone for our company in our goal to provide high performance, software-definable sensors to meet the needs of customers across various industries," said Paul Drysch, CEO and co-founder of PreAct Technologies. "Looking to the future, vehicles across all industries will be software-defined, and our flash LiDAR solutions are built to support that infrastructure from the beginning."

The sensor solutions created by PreAct and ESPROS will address top ADAS and self-driving features such as traffic sign recognition, curb detection, night vision and pedestrian detection with the highest frame rates and resolution of any sensor on the market.

In addition to providing solutions for automotive and trucking, PreAct and ESPROS will also cooperate on projects for the expanding robotics industry. This cooperation will enable a wide range of applications, including QR code scanning, obstacle avoidance and gesture recognition.



What is your job at ESPROS?

I'm a production employee. I operate various machinery. For example, I take care of the packaging line for test and of the assembly of optical semiconductors. I also do the picking and the end tests of the chips, and the visual checking of CSPs.

How long have you been working at ESPROS?

I started in July 2018, and I have spent almost four years working for EPC. I love the environment here, it is very friendly and motivating.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

I really enjoy operating the different machinery, using the various processes. There's always something new to learn, and it's never boring!

Where are you from originally and where do you live?

I'm an Albanian, from North Macedonia. I moved to Switzerland in 1993, and since then I have been living in Buchs. It's a very beautiful village in the canton of St. Gallen. It is located on the Rhine valley, about 20 km from Sargans.

What are your hobbies?

Most of all, I love doing things with my family and friends. And I like going to the cinema: thrillers, action movies, and comedies are my favorite. I also



love the sea.

What is your biggest wish?

I have lots of wishes, but good health is the most important, alongside the family.

Solidarity with Ukraine

The outpouring of generosity in support of the people of Ukraine is evident in towns and cantons throughout Switzerland.

The ESPROS family is very international, indeed a number of us are from eastern Europe. So we were very much willing to do our little bit for those suffering the horrors of war in Ukraine. By collecting items that will be of use to families there in their hour of need. It is just a drop in the ocean, we know that. But "little drops of water make the mighty ocean."

Therefore, we decided to join an initiative for the



Ukrainian people, and to play what little role we can in trying to alleviate the misery some have been so quick to inflict.

ESPROS is in many ways symbolic of its country of birth, small but dynamic and passionate about doing the right things 'right'. Switzerland has a long and proud history of providing assistance to those, displaced by and suffering, the terrors of war. Many thanks to the staff and their families who contributed, and helped with the logistics.

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