

**If a captain doesn't know which shore to head for, then no wind is the right one.**

Seneca

## CEO's Note

Dear Reader,

Although a cruel war is raging in Europe, the economic prospects of the western world were quite good last summer. After the countless Covid lockdowns and the restrictions associated with them in 2020 and 2021, subsequently, or perhaps one should say better, because of the restrictions, led to serious supply chain problems, the economic situation in the western world has recovered to some extent. But shortly after last summer, the first economic storm clouds appeared. Due to the fact that Germany speculated badly on the energy issue, energy prices shot through the roof. The hesitation and maneuvering of the German government has made a large part of Europe totally unsettled. And this plays into the hand of another part. Namely the part that wants to dictate to the rest of the population, that is the much larger part, how they have to live.

In this chaos, born of a power vacuum, the EU and the European Central Bank step into the breach. They believe they can save the European economy with money. Salvation is not money. The rescue is simple: We need a secure energy supply. And that doesn't exist, as Germany has demonstrated by first switching off the safe and stable nuclear power plants and then

starting to think about how this gigantic gap should be closed.

I would like to say this clearly: Germany has completely ruined its energy supply. And because Germany is not a nobody, it is dragging the global economy into the abyss with its failed energy policy. Anyone who considers this statement to be too excessive should be reminded to the subprime crisis of 2006/7, which caused the US real estate bubble to collapse due to a sharp drop in house prices. Who would have thought then that this local crisis - we are talking about part of the US economy - would drag the whole world into a multi-year crisis with record high unemployment. If a giant like Germany does not have its energy supply under control, the lights will go out not only in Europe.

But apparently the do-gooders still don't get it: Electricity doesn't just come out of the socket! And the fact that this self-inflicted misery is now to be prevented by means of coal, oil and gas speaks for the blue-eyed Green and Red series of books. Because they don't know what they're doing. Or with Seneca: "If a captain doesn't know which shore to head for, then no wind is the right one."

Beat De Coi



## TOF & LiDAR know-how for experts

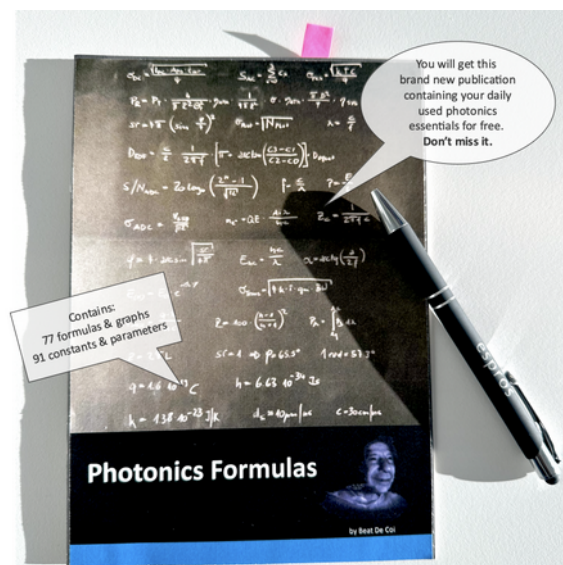
Taking place the day before Photonics West opens, the **"TOF & LiDAR Technology Day"**, hosted by ESPROS, gives an early dive into the vast potential of TOF & LiDAR technology. This event is carefully aimed at giving tech and product management people a very valuable hands-on, informative dive into the huge potential of TOF and LiDAR eco-system. Participants are assured of an eye-opening immersion into the ever expanding world of Time-of-Flight and LiDAR. Thanks to the experience and quality of expert speakers who will be on hand to guide and inform everyone taking part.

### CHECK THE AGENDA HERE AND SIGN UP

The potential of photonics is so vast that it is very hard to get one's head around it, which is why we have taken three of the best heads in the business. They offer you a hands-on dive deep into the immense world of possibilities offered by TOF and LiDAR eco-systems.

Our key speakers, live and breathe these possibilities every day. Danny Kent, Co-Founder & President of Mechaspin, Kurt Brendly, CCO & Co-Founder, PreAct Technologies, Len Cech, Executive Director Safety Innovations, Joyson Safety Systems. Alongside our very own ESPROS founder and CEO, Beat De Coi, who will offer valuable lessons learned over two decades

immersed in the world of photonics. He will focus on essentials to reduce frustration when implementing TOF and LiDAR applications and avoid pitfalls. Decades which have culminated in the compilation of a very useful photonics formula booklet. You will get one at the Technology Day.



## Andreas Good, Chief Quality Officer

### What is your job at ESPROS?

I am the Chief Quality Officer and part of the dedicated team that manufactures systems for distance measurements. In the vast majority of cases we fulfill the specifications of our customers, but sometimes we have to increase our knowledge and improve processes. In both cases, everything has to be documented, enhanced and released. That makes my role a little unpopular but it ensures a more stable production output.

### How long have you been working at ESPROS?

I have been working here since June 2022.

### What do you most enjoy about your job?

The company still embraces the 'Can Do' spirit of a greenfield enterprise with interesting products in a niche market. As we work in the free market economy, there is a wide range of free decisions how to produce and deliver the best products. As I originally came from the world of injection moulding with synthetic plastic, ESPROS products were completely new to me, but I find it very rewarding to work with people who are passionate about processing semiconductor components.

### Where are you from originally and where do you now live?

I'm Swiss and I grew up in the surrounding area of Sargans and I live in "Sarganserland".

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

Hiking in the mountains and building gliders out of wooden plates with my son.

### What would make you most happy?

Good weather in summer for long hiking tours and, of course, the ability to ensure a 24/7 production capability.



## Guestblog: Liam Sherlock

What does having a certain nationality mean? Does it mean anything? And if so does it mean the same to most or all of these particular citizens. Stereotypes often have a kernel of truth to them. As an Irishman living in Switzerland for almost two decades now. I suppose I've had a few rough edges smoothed off. Asked about the biggest differences between life on the Emerald Isle and life here in the Alps, I would immediately answer 'humor'. A fact that led to not a few uncomfortable moments, the Irish have a dark sarcastic humor, the Swiss do not! This is especially true of older generations. Reminds me of the joke about the definitions of paradise and hell. The former refers to the chefs being French the mechanics German, bankers Swiss, the lovers Italian, etc. Hell being a place where the chefs are English, the mechanics French the bankers Italian and I would suggest the comedians (rather than the lovers) Swiss.

However, both the Swiss and Irish are self-deprecating. With one major difference, generally speaking it matters not to the Swiss who is making the remarks either it's true or it isn't. Whereas, the Irish, would always consider the nationality making the joke. An Englishman would be easily and very colorfully dismissed.

Of course, anyone with any real knowledge of Switzerland, knows there is no such thing as a typical Swiss, They think in terms of cantons.

Another bump on the way to integration into the Swiss way of life, has been the «cantonligeist». Which refers to the way each Swiss canton flexes its independence with different little rules. This is another form of torture (ironically not banned by the Geneva convention!) As an Irishman, who like so many others, was raised to question authority if not automatically reject it! Ireland is very centralized, and you are not a registered resident of a specific county.

So one of my biggest pet hates was and still is the Swiss moneymaking enterprise of registering with the municipality where you live. Whereby you inform the authorities that you now live there and have to pay them to do so! And because the Swiss authorities like to make money hand over fist. You often require proof of residence for a wide variety of things. Having paid them to tell them, where you live, you then have to fork out even more for the authorities to confirm it! I mean, even Ryanair accepts that buying a ticket entitles you to a take-off and a landing. I'd better stop before I give CEO Michael O'Leary even more ideas!

*Liam Sherlock is our Technical Writer born in Ireland has been living in Switzerland since 2004, is also a Swiss citizen.*

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