



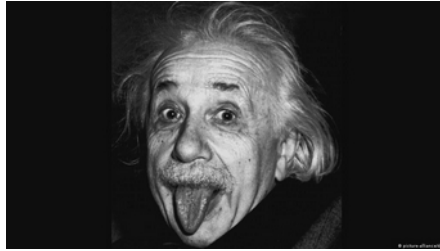
# Only those who burn themselves can ignite fires in others

Augustinus Aurelius (354 - 430)

## CEO's Note

Dear Reader,

Albert Einstein is reputed to have once said that he wanted to die in Switzerland. His reason was that everything happens twenty years later in Switzerland than elsewhere. Politically, this is certainly correct, and in my opinion, also a good thing. Because it is better to think twice about something and, if necessary, ask the people, than to rattle into disaster without thinking and driven by populist motives. But that doesn't mean that we Swiss are fundamentally slow. We make an honest effort. It is our (political) processes. Seen in this light, the following news item from February 11, 2023 in the newspaper "Tagblatt" fits well into this context:



Where shall I die?

"Microchips are at the heart of modern society. They are tiny and yet enormously important for the functioning of many products and machines. Eugen Elmiger, head of the Obwalden-based motor manufacturer Maxon, for example, says: 'Without semiconductors, nothing works in the high-tech environment. Our drive systems, as well as the devices in which they are installed, don't work without semiconductor components.'"

This news appeared because the Association of the Swiss Mechanical, Electrical and Watch Industries,

Swissmem, has created a new "Semiconductor" specialist group. This is in response to the various Chip Act of Europe, the U.S. and other countries in 2022 with the aim of better countering the tensions between the Western world and China in the conflict over Taiwan. Or in other words, to stop carrying "all eggs in the same basket". The Chip Act in China, if I remember correctly, goes back to the 2018 People's Congress. So already four years earlier. But even further back you will find all the funding

measures in Germany, France, UK, USA, Israel and many other countries. We're talking decades here. And now, finally, also in Switzerland, it has been recognized that the semiconductor industry is something significant for the Swiss workplace.

Long live the Swissmem Semiconductor Group. Here's to successful activity to promote our industry. We will see what happens!

Beat De Coi

PS: ESPROS is a founding member of the Swissmem Photonics and Semi specialist group.

## ESPROS exhibiting at Sensor + Test in May 2023

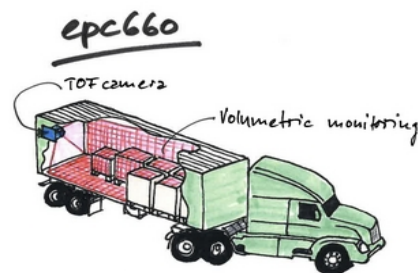
ESPROS will exhibiting its wide range of TOF imagers and cameras, line imagers and photo diodes at next month's **SENSOR+TEST** trade fair from May 09-11. This leading international trade fair for sensor, measuring and testing technology will be held at the exhibition center in Nuremberg, Germany. More than 350 exhibitors are expected. With the progressive lifting of many Corona restrictions worldwide, the interest of international exhibitors in particular has also grown considerably. From May 8-11, 2023, the Sensor and Measurement Science International Conference (SMSI), will now be held for the first time as a presence event in Nuremberg, after it had only digitally brought together numerous national and international scientists, developers and experts in 2021. SMSI 2023 comprises the three thematic blocks "Sensors and Instrumentation", "Measurement Science" and "System of Units and Metrological Infrastructure".

While ESPROS is globally renown for its time-of-flight chips and modules we also have a proven package of photo diodes, photo diode arrays, and line imagers.

The ESPROS team is looking forward to meet you at our booth 1-147.



If you need an exhibition ticket, please check this [link](#) and use the Promo code and get your free admission.



Volumetric monitoring with ESPROS' epc660

## Anastasios Stomas, Functional Safety Engineer

### What is your job at ESPROS?

I work as a Qualification- Reliability and Functional Safety Engineer. As a Functional Safety Engineer, it's my job to make sure that the products meet a certain level of safety. The challenge here is ensuring the product doesn't produce a defect under any circumstances. It has to be fail-safe, so to speak. Critically, we also have to be able to prove to a customer that this is the case.

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

Since June 2022, so nearly a year.

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

I like the open minded environment with a lot of freedom to contribute one's own ideas which is a great motivator. I love working in such a high tech and future orientated company, with a very strong emphasis on customer satisfaction.

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

I come from Edessa in Greece, but I grew up in Germany. For the past 23 years I have lived in Switzerland. Today I live in Stäfa in the canton of Zurich.

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

Hiking, spending time with my Family, meeting friends and I like to fly my model Helicopters and Drones. Also I ride my Motorbike (in the warmer time of the year) and listening to music on my self built Hi-End equipment.



*Anastasios model Helicopter*

## A sensitive touch is critical to delicate chip production

Every department likes to think it plays the most important role in a company's success. The fact is all roads lead to the production department, which at the end of the day turns all the company's hard work into sellable products. This is especially true of our (PDS) Production Semiconductors. Here the 15 members of the two shift team, produce all our TOF chips line imagers, and more.

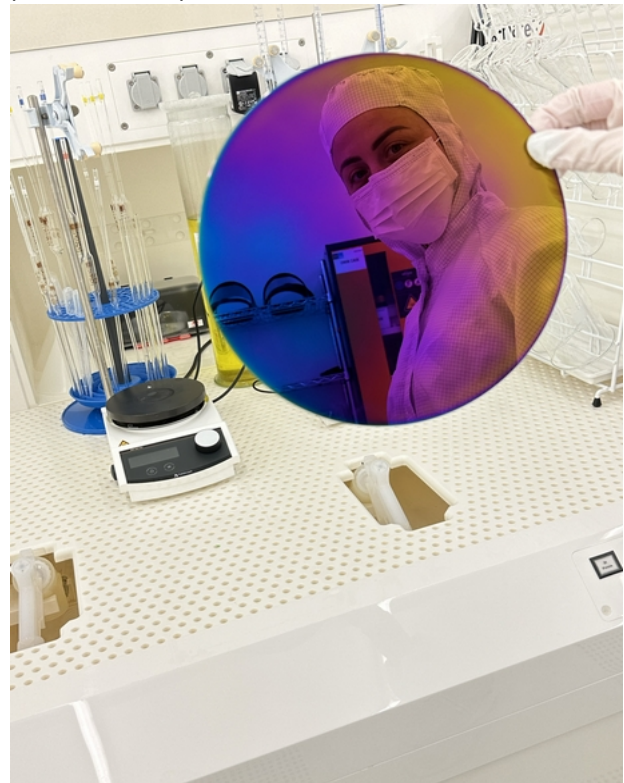


*Clean room II - ISO 4 classification*

On average there are 40 steps in the manufacturing process of a silicon wafer from arrival at our facility, through to placing it in the warehouse waiting for onward delivery to a customer. Perhaps the most notable aspect of PDS is the large number of women who work there. According to Department Manager, Arbnor Neziri, "this is because women tend to have steadier hands and have the necessary sensitive 'touch' when dealing with individual, very thin, complex chips."

The employees have to work in cleanrooms where ESPROS have to protect the products. The tiniest specks of dust can cause problems for chips.

So 'going to the office' is more like going to the moon in that safety always has the highest priority. The team all wear special overalls and gloves and masks, as well as their ESD shoes. All of this is mainly to protect the chips.



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