



## Not Your Parents' Factory Floor

The new collar worker embodies creativity, curiosity, and drive to have an impact on the world. They work with cool, futuristic tools and build, install, test and maintain optical and fiber-optic equipment such as lasers, lenses, and optics systems.

The demand for technicians is high, and employers are looking to hire now.

Get the training you need to be part of the solution.

[spie.org/technicians](http://spie.org/technicians)

*Contribute to meaningful projects that have impact on the world.*

DEFENSE AND AEROSPACE

REMOTE SENSING

LASER SYSTEMS

ELECTRONICS

ROBOTICS

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

PRECISION MANUFACTURING

SEMICONDUCTORS

ASTRONOMY

FORENSICS ANALYSIS

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

ILLUMINATION

AUTOMOTIVE



Find more resources and list of training programs at:

[spie.org/technicians](http://spie.org/technicians)

*Join the New Collar Workforce*

**BECOME A TECHNICIAN IN**

**LASERS, OPTICS**

**OR PHOTONICS**

*This is not your parents' factory floor.*



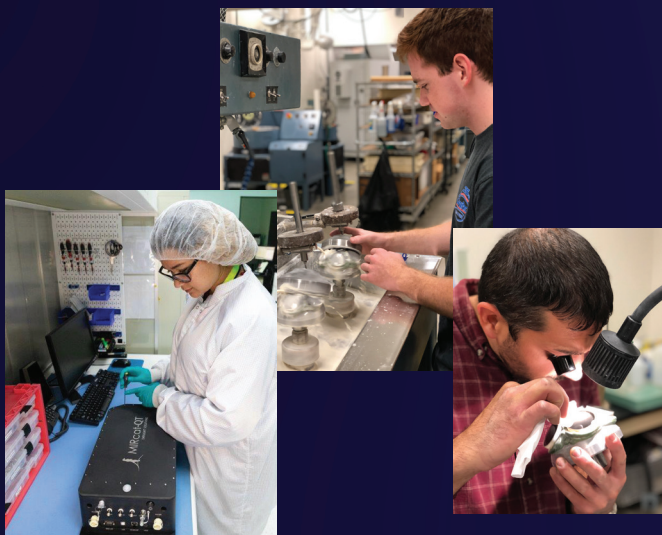
## What is Photonics?

Photonics is the technology of generating and harnessing light and other forms of radiant energy.

Lasers and other light beams are the preferred carriers of energy and information for many applications. Photonics involves cutting-edge uses of lasers, optics, fiber optics, and electro-optical devices in numerous and diverse fields of technology.

## Why is Photonics Important?

Photonics is everywhere in our daily lives: from technologies that improve vision and power the Smartphones in our hands, to state-of-the-art technologies that provide us with tools for space observation and fiber optics that help us communicate via the Internet. Photonics is poised to become the key enabling technology of the future.



Projected growth  
(2016-2026)  
**5% to 9%**

## Photonics Industry Needs Trained Professionals.

Technicians help put light to work. You could be working on components found in the Mars Rover, robots that work in disaster zones, and life-saving medical equipment.

This industry is experiencing increasing growth in all sectors and the demand for well-educated technicians has risen faster than supply to fill those positions.

*"I build lasers that are part of the protective defense of airplanes for soldiers going to armed conflicts in the Mideast. I can't tell you exactly what it does, for security reasons, but the laser redirects any oncoming missiles."*

*-Michelle I. Redish, Laser Technician*

Michelle earned an associate in applied science degree in lasers and photonics technology and a certificate in electronics engineering from Central Carolina Community College.

## Laser, Photonics, and Optics Careers Pay Off.

Starting salaries with a two-year degree:  
**\$42,000-\$57,000.**

In just two years, learn the skills necessary to help produce tomorrow's technologies and access a career that is exciting, hands on, and always changing.

A two-year college degree provides an affordable foundation for technicians to develop a basic understanding of the use of lasers and optics-enabling technologies to work more accurately, effectively, safely, and innovatively.

Companies are hiring students from two-year programs before they even graduate!

The national median  
for photonics technicians is  
**\$30.38 hourly,**  
**\$63,200 annually.**