

Apeldoorn, 14 February, 2012

Re.: Press Release by AVANTES Apeldoorn, The Netherlands

Avantes develops spectrometer for bomb detection

Avantes, a leader in the field of fiber optic spectroscopy, has been selected as supplier for the OPTIX project (Optical Technologies for the Identification of explosives). The objective is to develop a transportable system for the standoff detection and identification of explosives, using LIBS, Raman and IR spectroscopy. Avantes will supply newly developed systems. The project is funded by the European Commission.

Benno Oderkerk, Avantes' technical director: "Avantes has always focused on high quality, customizable miniature spectrometers. We have been selected for the OPTIX project based on our vast experience in customer specific optical systems. We will develop new systems with our partners in this project, including the Universities of Malaga, Dortmund, Vienna, Clausthal and the Spanish Guardia Civil."



The OPTIX project has been launched to possibly prevent terrorist attacks, as those in New York (2001), Madrid (2004) and London (2005). About 60% of these attacks have been carried out by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and therefore the detection has been given a high priority to contribute to the security of European citizens.

Oderkerk: "Spectrometers have proven to accurately detect even the smallest traces of substances. We will be developing a combined system of LIBS (Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy), Raman systems and IR absorption. Together, they give an accurate description of the unknown substance being investigated. Avantes is proud to be selected for such a prestigious project and we expect the first tests and results soon.

For additional information about Avantes' products and services please visit the Avantes site at www.avantes.com or email to info@avantes.com

AVANTES develops and manufactures products in the field of spectroscopy, such as spectrometers, light sources, software, fiber optic cables and probes, accessories and fiber optic sensor systems. With over 15 years of experience in solutions in spectroscopy, AVANTES continues to produce innovative applications in diverse fields including industrial, chemical, petrochemical, gemology, biomedical, semiconductor, and food processing technology.

<http://www.fp7-optix.eu/>