# VPIphotonics and NextCorps Luminate Launch New Collaboration to Empower Photonic Startups

**[Rochester, New York]** — February 11th, 2026 —VPIphotonics, a global leader in end-to-end photonic design automation software, announced today a new initiative aimed at supporting emerging photonics companies through a partnership with NextCorps Luminate, the world's largest business accelerator for startups with optics, photonics, and imaging-enabled technologies.

The partnership offers NextCorps and Luminate Accelerator early- and growth-stage companies access to advanced simulation tools, training resources, and certification pathways, strengthening their technical and commercial readiness. VPIphotonics' professional-grade software is used by industry-leading companies developing next-generation photonic integrated circuits, datacenter interconnects, quantum communications, laser satellite communications, and related technologies.

"Our goal is to equip startups with a seamless end-to-end photonic design experience across every stage of development," said Chris Maloney, Managing Director of US Operations at VPIphotonics. "This collaboration ensures founders can design, simulate, and refine their technologies within a unified environment built for real-world impact."



*NextCorps Luminate Director of Technology Integration Damon Diehl (left) and VPIphotonics Managing Director of US Operations Chris Maloney (right) at SPIE Photonics West.*

Luminate Director of Technology Integration Damon Diehl states, "Luminate works with high-potential companies working on technologies that enable quantum, AI, and other fast-moving markets. VPIphotonics' powerful toolset is a great fit for their development needs, and furthers our commitment to offering best-in-class capabilities that will jumpstart their growth."

Through this initiative, startups can gain access to an advanced toolset spanning the full photonic design workflow between different levels of abstraction, from integrated devices to photonic integrated circuits, to optical systems & networks. Participants can customize their path with tools including, but not limited to:

- VPItransmissionMaker™ Optical Systems
- VPIcomponentMaker™ Fiber Optics
- VPIcomponentMaker™ Photonic Circuits
- VPIdeviceDesigner™
- VPItoolkit™ QKD
- VPItoolkit™ PDK

This program reinforces VPIphotonics' and NextCorps Luminate's commitment to empowering the next generation of photonics leaders with tools that scale alongside their innovation. For more information on the program, contact VPIphotonics at https://www.vpiphotonics.com/Contact.php.

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## About VPIphotonics

VPIphotonics sets the industry standard for end-to-end photonic design automation comprising design, analysis and optimization of devices, components, systems and networks. We provide professional simulation software supporting applications in optoelectronics, integrated photonics, fiber optics, optical transmission systems and networks. Our experts offer professional consulting services and training courses on modeling techniques and software capabilities. For more than 25 years, VPIphotonics' award-winning solutions have been used extensively in research and development and by product design and marketing teams at hundreds of corporations worldwide. Over 160 academic institutions joined our University Program, enabling students, educators, and researchers easy access to VPIphotonics' latest modeling and design innovations. More information is available at www.VPIphotonics.com.

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