

# Guest Editorial

## JLT Special Issue on OFS-26

**T**HIS JOURNAL OF LIGHTWAVE TECHNOLOGY Special Issue contains expanded versions of selected papers that were presented during the 26th International Conference on Optical Fibre Sensors (OFS-26). From a modest conference, established in 1983 and attended by some tens of pioneers, the International Conference on Optical Fibre Sensors (OFS) has turned in this past decade into a major event gathering more than 500 actors from both the academia and industry. It has thus become an essential event in a community, which finally witnesses years of dedicated research and development translated into widely accepted, commercially available fibre-based sensors, offering unmatched solutions of unique performance in many fields of applications.

The 26th edition of this successful conference (<https://www.ofs26.org>) was held in the glittering scenery of lakes and mountains, where the city of Lausanne (Switzerland) is nestling, a region that has escaped the devastation of conflicts for more than 500 years to become the privileged place where people settle disputes in peaceful ways. Hosted in the very modern Swiss Tech Conference Centre located on the EPFL campus, OFS-26 has kept its unique format of a single-track conference, offering (double-blinded reviewed) quality oral presentations to a very large and unmatched audience, while maintaining high standard in poster sessions, which facilitate close and intense interactions between specialists. For the first time it also included a special session, strictly dedicated to members of the industry, offering them the opportunity not only to present real time applications and new products but to also educate and advise researchers how to bring their novel research ideas into products of commercial interest.

More than 90 OFS-26 related papers were submitted to this Special Issue. A stringent review process, led by the Guest Editors\*, has resulted in a fairly balanced 62-papers-long collection of state-of-art research and development accomplishments in fibre-optic sensing. Side by side with incremental improvements, new devices and novel applications, the reader will also find implementations of anticipated game-changers, such as deep-learning, photonic integrated circuits and distributed acoustic sensing for high spatial resolution, dynamic and distributed quantitative strain measurement. We hope this issue to be of interest to newcomers, as well as to veterans, triggering new research and application ideas that will hopefully catapult optical fibre sensing technology to new heights!

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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