



DAWSON BONNEVILLE

WE WOULD LIKE TO SPOTLIGHT **DAWSON BONNEVILLE** FOR THE **GREAT WORK** HE HAS BEEN DOING IN **TWO EU PROJECTS**, THE EIC TRANSITION ALUVIA AND THE H2020 RIA OPHELLIA. HE IS THE HIDDEN PERSON BEHIND THE SUCCESS OF THESE TWO PROJECTS.

DAWSON'S ROLE IN ALUVIA AND OPHELLIA

His role in the ALUVia project encompasses both technology maturation and project management. He measures photonic devices with blue and UV lasers in the laboratory, organises meetings, prepares reports for the European Commission, and manages consortium members and work packages. He has worked for eight years on the Al₂O₃ waveguide platform, which has prepared him well for understanding the material, measurement techniques, and process development. The UV wavelengths offer potential for applications such as Raman spectroscopy for healthcare and underwater LIDAR, which align with his interests as an engineer. He enjoys public speaking at events such as conferences and seminars, and making crucial decisions and devising strategies for project

success provides him with valuable experience on the path to leading a research group, his future goal as a professor.

Similarly, the H2020 RIA Ophellia project provided the opportunity to advance his research from his PhD in Canada to a higher level. The project focuses on creating demonstrator models for end users and applying research on optical amplifiers. He was responsible for the characterisation of integrated optical amplifiers in the laboratory, resulting in publications and material optimisation. Additionally, he contributed to project management by drafting reports for the European Commission and coordinating strategies within the consortium.

COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION: THE KEY TO SUCCESS

For Dawson, collaboration and camaraderie are the keys to success. He facilitates effective communication within the team and ensures smooth coordination of activities. He regularly organises meetings to align work packages, with respect for everyone's expertise central. With different backgrounds and contributions to the project you work on together, it is common for members of the consortium to work in adjacent or entirely different fields, providing a unique learning experience.

RECENT PROGRESS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

Recent significant progress has been made in the research on aluminium oxide photonic waveguides, resulting in world record results and promising directions for future growth. This makes Dawson extremely proud! "Although our technology is not yet with end users, it has the potential to address societal issues such as food safety, information security, and autonomous vehicles. We hope that the EU projects we are involved in will ultimately have a tangible impact and help revolutionise technology."

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND INTRODUCING INNOVATIONS

Of course, there are also challenges in research. Not achieving successful results and therefore receiving negative feedback from reviewers can be discouraging for the project consortium, and this has happened in one of the projects at an early stage. Dealing with setbacks and negative feedback requires determination, staying positive, and having confidence in one's abilities, even when others doubt. Dawson: "By remaining steadfast and having confidence in our technical expertise, we have overcome difficult times, although this sometimes requires delicate management."

BALANCING RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIME MANAGEMENT

Balancing responsibilities across multiple projects requires careful prioritisation and effective time management. It is essential to be pragmatic and anticipate the needs of each project as they evolve. This means preparing in the laboratory to take measurements while also working on reports, dissemination, and conferences. Fortunately, some tasks can complement each other, which is an advantage of working on multiple projects. Additionally, lessons learned in one project can often be applied in another, contributing to a more efficient approach.

DAWSON'S ADVICE FOR EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS

Here is Dawson's advice for early-career researchers or postdocs aspiring to contribute to large-scale EU projects:

- Expect bureaucracy: these projects require a lot of administration and reporting.
- Showcase your skills and clearly define your role.
- Don't be intimidated by others; everyone makes mistakes.
- Stay motivated and focus on the overarching goal.

FUTURE GOALS

For the remainder of the Ophellia project, Dawson will be dedicated to getting the best out of the new devices currently being fabricated. In the coming year (and maybe a year and a half), he will have time


to deliver truly groundbreaking demonstrations, and pursuing this is a priority. As for ALUVia, the project lends itself to many future continuations and is known as an enabling platform technology. In this regard, he hopes to continue his future with ALUVia, applying for academic positions and hoping to continue his research. Integrated photonics, and specifically aluminium oxide, which has become a significant central theme in his research and work, is something he simply cannot stop now!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: WHAT CAN YOU WAKE DAWSON UP FOR?

Dawson: "Strong coffee and a reminder that I'm late for something!"

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