



PIX Europe
Advanced Photonic Integrated Circuits

Management and Coordination Team



Funded by
the European Union



MCT

ICFO

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MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION TEAM



Pilot Line Director: Valerio Pruneri, PIXEurope's Director, is Corning Inc. Chair leading the Optoelectronics group at the Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO). Previously he worked for Avanex, Corning, Pirelli, and the University of Southampton. With his groups in academia and industry, he has developed technologies for the photonic, photonic integration, and quantum industries. He is inventor in more than 70 granted or pending patent families, leading to numerous industrial collaborations and the creation of four spin offs (Quside, Sixsenso, Luxquanta and Shinephi).

Pilot Line Project & Ecosystem Manager:

Marina Santana (PhD Newcastle University), who joins ICFO as PIXEurope's Project and Ecosystem Manager, has a background in Physical Chemistry and Nanotechnology, combined with experience in stakeholder engagement and funding strategy. Prior to this role, she spent a decade in the UK, working first in academia and then as an Industry Engagement Manager at the University of Glasgow, where she focused on the commercialization of critical technologies and research-industry collaboration.



Pilot Line Project Manager: Ana Aguarod, who has been part of ICFO within the Competitive Funding Department, holds a Double Degree in Sociology and Business Administration. In her current role as Project Manager, she supports the coordination and management of the Pilot Line projects, contributing with her expertise in project administration and coordination.

Pilot Line Financial & Procurement Manager:

Noelia Cuesta, who has been working at ICFO since 2008, brings over 17 years of experience in post-award project management across European, national, international, and regional funding programs. Prior to this role, she worked in the banking sector at Banc de Sabadell, among others, providing client advisory and financial services, and at Henkel Ibérica, supporting marketing campaigns, market research, and product development.





Pilot Line Dissemination & Communication

Manager: Sabine Runge, who recently joined ICFO as PIXEurope's Communication Officer, brings a background in Media & Communication, International Relations, and Project Management. Prior to this role, she worked at EIT Health as Internationalisation Programme Manager and previously at Secpho, a Spanish deep tech cluster, managing and communicating EU-funded innovation projects in photonics and emerging technologies.

Pilot Line Open Access Manager: Katia Panina

(PhD Università degli Studi di Trento, MBA TIAS Business School) - Katia joined TUE in 2018 as JePPIX Coordinator. She has been Operations Manager for the JePPIX Pilot Line (InPulse) and managed the roll-out of the digital supply chain management platform for complex data exchange, data validation and project execution across 16 industrial partners. She has facilitated the management of more than 140 businesses worldwide leading to over 1200 designs manufactured in Open Access foundry model. This infrastructure enables seamless order execution stepping up the quality and removing human error.



Interim Pilot Line Open Access Manager: Alona

Boitsova joined TUE in 2025 following a role in the automotive sector designing and implementing administrative systems for tracking key performance indicators across departments, including projects, personnel, and education. She had responsibility for coordinating team workflows and managing logistical processes, ensuring smooth collaboration between diverse stakeholders. Alona will lead WP3 DEP Open Access and act as Interim Open Access Manager in the absence of Katia.

Interim Pilot Line Installation and Acceptance

Manager: Pau Güell (PhD Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) – Pau recently joined IMB-CNM (CSIC) as Project Manager for CSIC's activities in PIXEUROPE Pilot Line. He will also act as Interim PL Installation and Acceptance Manager. Prior to his role, he was Process Integration Engineer at IMEC, where he executed and coordinated multiple customer and internal development projects in integrated photonics among other technology application fields.



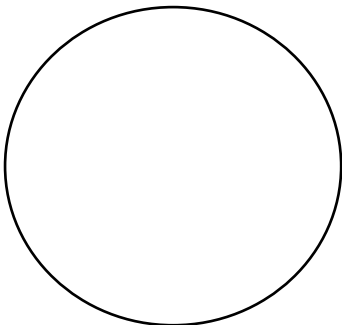
**Pilot Line Training Manager: Elisabeth (Liz) Wintersteller**

recently joined the Advanced Packaging Team at Tyndall National Institute/University College Cork. She has more than 10 years of experience in managing large-scale STEM programmes at universities and research centres, where she has coordinated and delivered training at national, EU, and international levels. Her previous roles include project management in the Human Brain Project (FET Flagship) education programme, delivering training initiatives at EMBL – the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, and most recently managing two photonics training

programmes at the Irish Photonic Integration Centre (IPIC) at Tyndall National Institute. She will lead WP3-DEP Training.

Pilot Line Interoperability Manager: Padraic

Morrissey (PhD University College Cork) – Senior Technology Programme Manager at the Tyndall National Institute, with over a decade of experience in photonic research and development, focusing on PIC design, testing, and electro-optical packaging in the communications, sensing, and medical sectors. He has played a central role in the PIXAPP Pilot Line as both Technology Manager and Programme Manager, overseeing activities from concept development to prototype delivery and supporting collaboration between partners and industry users.

**Pilot Line Exploitation & Innovation Manager:**
to be hired