

## BIZSPOTLIGHT

IN DALLAS

# Congressman Allred Visits Semiconductor Manufacturer Photodigm to Highlight CHIPS Act Funding



Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) recently visited Richardson-based semiconductor manufacturer Photodigm. Allred toured their headquarters and discussed the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, which he helped pass, and the need to invest in semiconductor chip manufacturing, growing businesses like Photodigm to create jobs across Texas.

"North Texas has always been a leader in producing the semiconductor chips that power our lives and protect our national security and I was glad to see that in action at Photodigm," said Allred. "I was proud to help pass the CHIPS Act to help North Texas companies like Photodigm expand, create jobs, help shore up our supply chains and ensure we can compete with China for decades to come."

"We were incredibly honored and grateful to have Congressman Colin Allred visit Photodigm," said Bill Stuart, CEO of Photodigm. "It's clear that he understands the crucial importance of our innovative semiconductor chip technology and is incredibly quick to grasp the real-world challenges companies like ours face as we scale production of our leading-edge photonic chips to meet customer demand."

## The Importance of Photonic Chips

As a semiconductor manufacturer of photonic chips, Photodigm is the global technology leader in the design, testing, and manufacturing of single-frequency

Distributed Bragg Reflector (DBR) laser diodes which are essential to quantum, biomedical, sensing, environmental, and defense technologies. The company was originally founded in 2000 as a spinoff from the photonics lab at Southern Methodist University (SMU) and as

***"North Texas has always been a leader in producing the semiconductor chips that power our lives and protect our national security and I was glad to see that in action at Photodigm." -- U.S. Congressman Allred***

technology and processes advanced through the years, Photodigm's team of researchers and chief technologists created over 45 patents. Photodigm is one hundred percent U.S.-based and headquartered in Richardson, Texas.

Photodigm would use CHIPS Act funding to acquire U.S.-based land to build a new uniquely designed high-scale semiconductor fabrication facility, acquire specialty equipment to increase production and yield, and hire and train a skilled workforce to operate the equipment. This would ensure that a key element to multiple technology requirements would be available to the United States Department of Defense and related private sector solutions. Photodigm is set apart within

the semiconductor industry, as the only commercial provider of the DBR semiconductor chip, which the U.S. Department of Defense relies upon for applications that ensure our national security. Unique to other semiconductor manufacturers, Photodigm is the only company in the world that uniquely designs its chips using customized tooling.

## More about the Historic CHIPS and Science Act

The CHIPS Act, which was signed into law last year, is a bipartisan legislative package that will create jobs and lower costs for North Texans by investing in American manufacturing, research, and supply chains. Congressman Allred was a leader in the House calling for the bill's passage which will bolster the production of semiconductors in Texas and strengthen our national security. The CHIPS and Science Act provides \$52.7 billion for American semiconductor research, development, manufacturing, and workforce development.

## Investing in the Next-Gen of Semiconductor Leaders

Another tentpole of the CHIPS Act is diversifying the STEM workforce to be inclusive so that the nation's brightest minds are helping drive American innovation. However, generously giving to further photonics education and growing the local workforce isn't new to Photodigm, who in their first 15 years of



business provided a combined \$1.5M to SMU, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of Texas at Dallas for research programs and related support. In 2022, Photodigm pledged another quarter of a million dollars to SMU's Lyle School of Engineering for Ph.D. students pursuing an advanced degree in photonics or semiconductor devices.

"The collaboration of private industry with world-class universities is imperative for the development of world-class engineering leaders facing tomorrow's challenges," said Bill Stuart, CEO of Photodigm who also serves on the Industrial Advisory Board at SMU's Lyle School of Engineering.

## World Quantum Day, April 14

Since Photodigm's photonic chips are a key enabler of quantum science and technology, this year for World Quantum Day (April 14), they joined forces with the Quantum Economic Development Consortium (QED-C) to raise awareness on how quantum technology will impact the world.

Learn more about Photodigm by visiting [www.photodigm.com](http://www.photodigm.com) or following @Photodigm on LinkedIn.