**FROM CHALLENGE TO APPLICATION: CONNECTING FOOD PROCESSING & MACHINE BUILDING WITH PHOTONICS SENSORS**

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 13:00 – 17:00
De Jamfabriek
Helftheuvelweg 11, Den Bosch, The Netherlands

**Programme**

**12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch**

**13:00–13:15 | Welcome & introduction**
Setting the scene: the opportunities for photonic sensing in food processing and what we want to achieve together.

**13:20–14:30 | Inspiration: What is possible today?**
Short, practical contributions from photonics companies, food businesses, machine builders and a data & AI specialist. Discover real-world applications, lessons learned and the journey from sensor data to actionable insights.

Confirmed speakers:

- Friesland Campina: Ewa Szymanska - “Marathon relay race: from exploration to successful adoption of spectroscopic sensors in dairy manufacturing”
- GraINNOVATE: Ernest van Wijk – “Title tbd”
- Hamamatsu: Kaj Petersen – “From Light to Insight: Photonics Solutions for Food Manufacturing”
- Laser 2000: Pieter Kramer – “Advanced photonics solutions for food/pharma/agri applications”
- Food For Analytics: Gert-Jan van Fessem – “How to turn sensor data into actions?”

**14:20–14:30 | From challenges to opportunities**
What information would help you improve your process? Share your own measurement challenges and explore opportunities with fellow participants.

**14:30–14:50 | Coffee break & challenge clustering**

**14:50–15:30 | Table discussions — Understanding the challenge**
Work in mixed groups to explore a concrete challenge, identify the information that is missing, and discuss why current methods may fall short.

**15:30–15:40 | Short break**

**15:40–16:10 | Table discussions — From challenge to opportunity**
Explore how photonic sensing, data, AI and automation could help — and what is needed to make a solution work in a real production environment.

**16:10–16:45 | Sharing insights & opportunities**
Hear the outcomes from each table, exchange perspectives and identify promising directions for further exploration.

**16:45–17:00 | Wrap-up & next steps**
Highlight shared priorities and identify opportunities to take forward towards practical testing or collaboration.

**17:00–18:00 | Matchmaking & Networking drinks**
Continue the conversation, connect with potential partners and explore opportunities together.

**Explore challenges such as:**

- **In-process product quality:** How can we detect hidden defects, ripeness, composition and texture during production?
- **Food safety and contaminants:** How can we detect contaminants, foreign objects and other deviations?
- **Managing product variability:** How can we identify batch-to-batch differences early and adjust processes to reduce waste?
- **From sensors to decisions:** How can we combine sensor data and use AI to generate actionable insights?

**What will you take away?**

- Inspiration from real-world applications of photonic sensing.
- New ideas for measurement challenges within your own business.
- Insights into technical and practical barriers to implementation.
- Connections with potential technology partners and opportunities for follow-up testing or collaboration.