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Almere, Flevoland and Q.ANT team up for computing with light

German leader in photonic AI chips signs Memorandum of Understanding with Innovally and Horizon Flevoland at SEMICON Europa

Munich, 11 November 2026 – German deep-tech company Q.ANT, Innovally and Horizon Flevoland marked their collaboration today at SEMICON Europa in Munich with a ceremony commemorating the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The intent is to develop, validate and scale concrete applications of photonic computing in and from Almere and Flevoland. Q.ANT develops processors that run AI calculations with light instead of electrons, opening up a new category of computing. The aim: enabling a new generation of AI that today's technologies cannot deliver in a commercially viable way – in terms of cost, energy efficiency and computing power.

The ceremony was attended by Michael Förtsch (CEO, Q.ANT), Michiel Sweers (Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Toon van Dijk (Regional Minister for Economic Affairs, Province of Flevoland), Eric-Mark Huitema (CEO, High Tech NL), Chris van Voorden (Director, Horizon Flevoland), Yannes Koning (Director High Tech Almere) and Danny Frietman (Director, Innovally).

Addressing AI's energy challenge

AI needs ever more computing power, and with it ever more energy. Q.ANT offers a different route: photonic processors that compute with light. They work as co-processors alongside existing CPUs and GPUs in data centres, and, according to the company, are orders of magnitude more energy-efficient than conventional processors. Photonic processors can also make AI models leaner: complex functions that inflate digital models can be computed with light, using less data and fewer parameters. Q.ANT is working towards making the technology more widely available.

Almere and Flevoland offer a growing high-tech ecosystem, centred on High Tech Almere, where companies, government and knowledge institutions work together on semiconductors, AI and digital infrastructure. Almere is also the intended location of the Institute for Advanced Materials & Metrology (IAMM), a national initiative now in development to strengthen the Dutch semiconductor industry through advanced materials and metrology. With a strong digital infrastructure and growing demand for computing power in the region, Flevoland is a natural place to test photonic computing in practice, together with future end users.

From intention to application

Q.ANT contributes through providing its photonic computing technology and expertise, while taking the lead on the technical objectives of the pilots. Innovally and Horizon Flevoland connect the cooperation with end users, partners, talent and funding opportunities in the region.

> "Flevoland is where international technology companies can grow close to the Dutch high-tech chain. With Q.ANT, a German deep-tech leader, we strengthen the Dutch–German corridor, and we will connect Q.ANT with partners and future users in our region. We hope this will be the first of many such collaborations."
>
> **— Chris van Voorden, Director, Horizon Flevoland**

> "This MoU is the result of a journey that started in July with Q.ANT's visit to Almere. Now we are taking it together to pilots, customers and talent. That is what makes High Tech Almere tangible."
>
> **— Danny Frietman, Director, Innovally**

The collaboration starts with the market. Over the next 12 to 18 months, the partners will develop a joint roadmap focused on:

- **Use cases and market development:** finding the most promising applications and end users;
- **Pilots and demonstrators:** proving the value of photonic computing in practice, for example in digital infrastructure, logistics, healthcare and public-sector applications;
- **Commercialisation and positioning:** exploring how pilots can lead to customer relationships and international visibility;
- **Talent and ecosystem:** education, internships and a growing community around photonic AI and energy-efficient chips, centred on High Tech Almere.

Quotes

Draft – quotes to be approved by the speakers before release.

> "Collaboration across companies, regions and borders is the strength of Dutch high tech. The Dutch–German corridor is one of Europe's most important technology axes. This partnership makes that corridor stronger."
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> **— Eric-Mark Huitema, CEO, High Tech NL**

> "Semiconductors, AI and computing power are about resilience and about Europe's ability to shape its own future. This partnership shows how regional initiative and national economic diplomacy reinforce each other."
>
> **— Michiel Sweers, Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations**

> "Flevoland was created by imagining what did not yet exist. We see the same in photonic computing. This partnership is about jobs, talent and the economy of tomorrow. Today we mark the start; tomorrow the real work begins."
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> **— Toon van Dijk, Regional Minister for Economic Affairs, Province of Flevoland**

> "Europe needs its own energy-efficient AI infrastructure, and it will not catch up in conventional processors. But the next category, computing with light, is still open. Who owns this category, and with it the market, will not be decided in the lab, but by users who put it to work. Almere and Flevoland connect us with exactly those users."
>
> **— Michael Förtsch, CEO, Q.ANT**

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About Q.ANT

Q.ANT is commercializing photonic accelerators for AI and high-performance computing, enabling energy-efficient and high-performance co-processing for complex computational tasks. Q.ANT was founded in 2018. Its European headquarters is in Stuttgart, Germany. Q.ANT has developed the full value chain, including chip material, Pilotline, processor development and proprietary software stack.

About Innovally

Innovally is the public-private innovation platform behind **High Tech Almere**. Based in Almere, it connects companies, government and knowledge institutions to build technology ecosystems in Almere and Flevoland, with a focus on semiconductors, AI and digital infrastructure. Innovally supports start-ups, scale-ups and international companies with access to partners, talent, markets and international missions, under the motto Meet · Connect · Accelerate. **High Tech Almere** is the region's proposition for semiconductors and deep tech, centred on the new High Tech Campus Almere on the Weerwater, with ASM as anchor company and the planned national Institute for Advanced Materials & Metrology (IAMM).

About Horizon Flevoland

Horizon Flevoland is the regional development agency of the Province of Flevoland. It helps entrepreneurs grow through innovation, internationalisation and investment, including financing through its regional funds. As a member of the Invest in Holland network, Horizon supports international companies looking to establish or expand their activities in Flevoland.

Note to editors

Photos of the ceremony will be available from 14:00 CET. For interviews and more information: Danny Frietman, Innovally, +31618859232, danny.frietman@innovally.nl