



Sofradir and ULIS become Lynred

By streamlining operations across a comprehensive range of infrared products and improving industrial efficiency, Lynred will accelerate delivery of new technologies to global customers and pursue growth

Veurey-Voroize, near Grenoble, France, June 4, 2019 – Sofradir and its subsidiary ULIS today announce their merger and new company name: Lynred. Lynred was created to respond to a need for an all-inclusive infrared (IR) product offering to the global aerospace, defense, industrial and consumer markets. In response to rising competition from new entrants, the company has attained a critical mass geared to shortening the time-to-market process of new products. Its US entity remains a subsidiary and has been renamed Lynred USA.

Lynred is the new identity under which its 1,000 staff will provide the widest range of advanced IR technologies to global markets, assure a long-term and reliable product supply and accompany client projects with the best possible IR design and equipment integration support.

“Lynred will enter the market with a new vision for the future in an increasingly competitive market, which has seen the number of players double over the last five years,” said Jean-François Delepau, chairman of Lynred. “We are the established European leader in infrared technologies. Now, Lynred gives us more punching weight in R&D and increased visibility within the IR ecosystem. Thanks to the commitment of our employees in forming Lynred and increased support from our partners, we will be able to offer new attractive solutions to our customers.”

Lynred is actively pursuing growth. According to Maxtech International Inc.’s market report: ‘The world market for military infrared imaging detectors and systems’ edition 2019¹, the world military infrared imaging systems market is estimated at \$8.5 billion (approx. €7.6bn) in 2018 and is expected to grow to \$14 billion (approx. €12.5bn) in 2023. Market data extrapolated from the report on ‘Uncooled Infrared Imagers and Detectors 2019²’ by Yole Développement indicates that the market of cameras for industrial and consumer applications has the potential to increase from \$2.9 (approx. €2.6bn) to \$4.1 billion (€3.7bn) for the same period.

For Lynred, this translates to a global market growth potentially up to 10% (CAGR) at the camera and system level. Over the next five years, Lynred anticipates strengthening its market position to achieve an over 20% market share at the IR detector level.

Lynred will advance developments of next generation IR detectors with the €150 million (\$167.4M) financial investment it is making in the Nano2022 project over the next five years. These IR devices will be designed to address trends in autonomous systems for smart buildings (workspace management, energy savings), road safety and in-cabin comfort of vehicles.

¹ [The world market for military infrared imaging detectors and systems’](#) published by Maxtech international, edition 2019

² [Uncooled Infrared Imagers and Detectors 2019’](#) published by Yole Développement

Developments also include the very large dimension IR detectors needed for space and astronomy observations as well as compact and light IR detectors that can be used in portable devices and on drones. Lynred will continue hiring roughly 20 people per year in support of these activities.

Jean-François Delepau spearheaded plans for the merger in March 2018, following his appointment as chairman of Sofradir, ULIS and US-based Sofradir-EC. By June that year, the companies had undergone a structural reorganization designed around a set of company values with people, innovation and product quality at its center.

There were no layoffs associated with the merger, neither were any product lines discontinued in the InGaAs (Indium Gallium Arsenide), MCT (Mercury Cadmium Telluride) QWIP (Quantum Well Photon Infrared) or microbolometer portfolio.

About Lynred

Lynred is a global industry leader with the widest range of advanced infrared detectors, established following the merger of Sofradir and its subsidiary ULIS. Its infrared products are used in multiple aerospace, defense, industrial and consumer applications and are sold across Europe, Asia and North America. Lynred's technologies bring peak infrared imaging performance, reliability, size, weight and low power consumption advantages as well as high-volume production capacities to camera makers and system designers. Lynred was founded with a 30-year legacy in innovations from improving the speed, accuracy and efficiency of detecting and identifying threats at night and in all-weather conditions, to observing Earth and nature, diagnosing heat loss and aiding in search and rescue operations. The company continues to develop products to meet increasing demands for improved performance, while addressing trends in the fields of autonomous systems, smart buildings (workspace management, energy savings), road safety as well as in-cabin comfort of vehicles.

Lynred's principal activities are located near Grenoble, France, where it runs manufacturing operations. Its US subsidiary, Lynred USA, responsible for North American business activity, is based in Fairfield NJ. The company employs 1,000 staff with world-class expertise across many disciplines: metallurgy, semiconductor materials, microelectronics, optoelectronics, micromechanics, cryogenics and other specialty areas in physics and chemistry. Safran and Thales are equal 50/50 shareholders.
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