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Morelle announces \$150k in funding for RIT quantum photonics

By: Gino Fanelli August 7, 2019

U.S. Rep. Joe Morelle, D-N.Y. has announced a \$150,000 grant for the Rochester Institute of Technology toward the development of a quantum photonics institute.



Congressman Joe Morelle

Awarded through the National Science Foundation, the funding will help support the development of a quantum photonics ecosystem at RIT, with a goal of making the school a leader in the field. Quantum photonics focuses on developing photonic-based tools and circuits for use in the quantum space. In other words, light-based circuits used in extremely small and precise technology.

"Quantum technologies are on the verge of transitioning from fundamental research to applied technology, forming a quantum industry," said Don Figer, director of RIT's Future Photon Initiative, the core photonics program at RIT, in a statement. "This field will have broad impact on computing, artificial intelligence, biosensors, positioning systems, navigation, machine learning and cryptography."

With the funding, Figer hopes to develop the United States's first open-access "quantum foundry" for quantum photonic circuits.

"RIT has always been a leader in innovative technologies and I am pleased that this grant will allow them to continue that legacy by solidifying their position in the quantum science field," Morelle said. "Quantum-photonics technologies have broad applications that will strengthen our economy and create new job opportunities."

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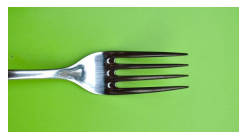
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