SCIENTISTS at the Optoelectronics Research Centre have made a major step forward in the development of digital data storage that is capable of surviving for billions of years. Using nanostructured glass, researchers have developed the recording and retrieval processes of five dimensional (5D) digital data by femtosecond laser writing. As a very stable and safe form of portable memory, the technology could open an era of eternal data archiving to preserve humanity’s information and records. A copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was encoded to 5D data storage and presented to UNESCO at the International Year of Light (IYL) closing ceremony in Mexico last month.

Did you know?

Coined as the ‘Superman memory crystal’, 5D data encoding is realised in five dimensions: the size and orientation in addition to the 3D position of nanostructures.

Faculty’s awesome foursome

FOUR Academics within the Faculty of Physical Sciences and Engineering have again been named in the prestigious Debrett’s 500 for 2016. Published in association with The Sunday Times, the Debrett’s 500 recognises the most influential and inspiring people living and working in Britain today.

Professor Dame Wendy Hall (top left), Professor Sir David Payne (bottom left) and Visiting Professor Liam Maxwell (bottom right) were all listed for their contributions to engineering and technology, while Professor Sir Tim Berners-Lee (top right) was recognised for his influence in the digital and social sector.

Celebrating success

Dan Hewak £327,000
EPSRC - N-type Amorphous Chalcogenides

Steve King £273,000
EU grant - ELUSIVES

Otto Muskens £225,000
H2020 - Next generation meta-material based Optical Solar Reflectors

Kai Yang £1,087,000
MRC - Low-cost personalised instrumented clothing - (see inside)

Yunjia Li Royal Academy of Engineering Enterprise Fellowship
Paul is new Head of ECS

PROFESSOR Paul Lewin will be the new Head of Electronics and Computer Science (ECS).

Paul’s appointment follows his experience as the Deputy Head for Education of the historic department and as Head of the impressive Tony Davies High Voltage Laboratory.

He will take up the post next month and replaces Professor Nick Jennings, who is leaving to become Vice Provost – Research at Imperial College London.

Support for stroke patients

GROUNDBREAKING collaborative research led by ECS Senior Research Fellow Dr Kai Yang is set to create a prototype for a wearable Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) medical device for stroke rehabilitation.

The £1.1m project, funded by the Medical Research Council, is combining expertise from ECS with Health Sciences as it innovates a practical, comfortable and high performance solution for cost effective rehabilitation.

Record-breaking Careers Fair

THE Faculty’s ninth Engineering and Technology Careers Fair has been hailed a “resounding success” after more than 1,200 students interacted with 90 companies across campus.

The event smashed Faculty records for corporate and visitor numbers.

“The Fair is a great endorsement of the high regard that the UK’s leading technology companies have for Southampton students,” said Careers Fair Director Joyce Lewis. “It was fantastic to hear the buzz in both venues.”