

Former European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso Visits ICFO

Jose Manuel Barroso, former president of the European Commission and one of the founders of the ERC research program, visits ICFO and meets with ICFOnians to learn about their scientific research and the cutting-edge science supported by the ERC grant program

March 26, 2025

On March 25th, 2025, ICFO had the honor of welcoming former President of the European Commission and founder of the ERC program, Jose Manuel Barroso, to visit to the institute and learn about the type of research that is being conducted at ICFO. His visit underscored the significant role that the institute plays in advancing scientific research at the highest level in the field of photonic sciences.

During his tour, Mr. Barroso had the opportunity to engage with leading researchers and witness firsthand the groundbreaking scientific developments taking place at ICFO, advances

that have been made possible, in part, by the support of the European Research Council (ERC), which has played a crucial role in fostering innovation and enabling world-class research at the institute.

In fact, since its first ERC grant achieved in 2007, ICFO has proactively sought out ERC funding for research and to advance the TRL of new technologies developed in our labs through the different modalities that support the needs of researchers at different moments in their career trajectories. The institute's researchers have been remarkably successful i their applications, reaching the 50th milestone in 2024 - an outstanding figure for a institution of ICFO's size

ICFO's ability to attract and retain outstanding talented scientists from around the world is a indication of how solid and significant the ERC program is and how positively it has impacte on the European research landscape, significantly seeking to position the region at t e forefront of scientific and technological progres



Oriol Romero-Isart, Rob Sewell, Silvia Carrasco, Joan Gomez Pallares and Lluis Torner welcome Mr. Barroso to ICFO



Oriol Romero-Isart, director of ICFO, gives an introduction of the institute to Barroso.



Morgan Mitchell explains Quantum sensing and the type of experiments they are doing in the lab.



Frank Koppens giving a tour of one of the research group's labs, dedicated to investigating Quantum Materials



Silvia Carrasco, VD of Innovation, Sponsored Research and Public Engagement, giving a brief overview of KTT



Carlos Abellan, CEO and co-founder of Quside, presenting the company to Barroso