

# From Fundamental Quantum Physics to Revenue

**Peter Lodahl**

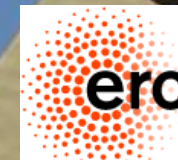
**DNRF Center for Hybrid Quantum Networks Hy-Q**

**Founder of Sparrow Quantum**

**Niels Bohr Institute**

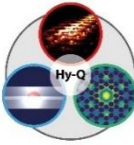
**University of Copenhagen**

**novo  
nordisk  
fonden**



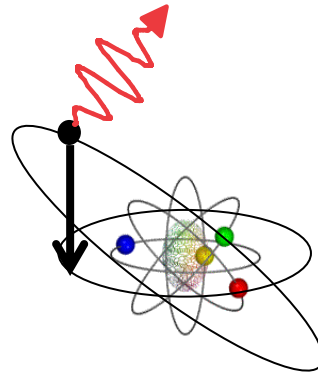


# What is Quantum?

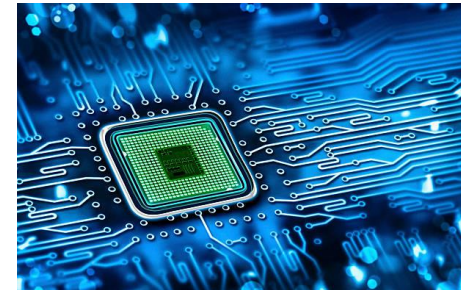
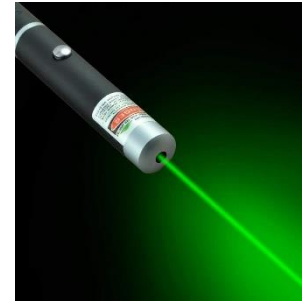


The microscopic world  
of atoms and photons

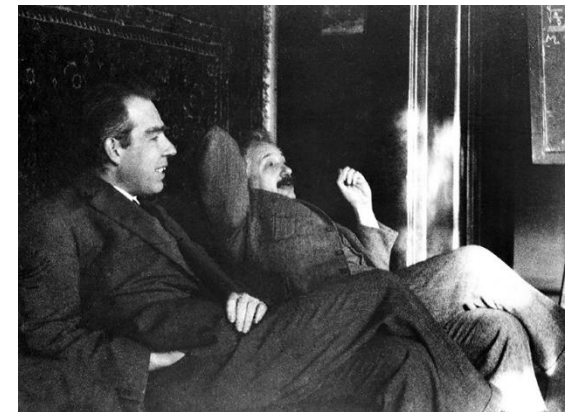
How does light and matter  
interact?



**Q-tech 1.0** is responsible for the  
technology of today: lasers,  
transistors, computer chip, internet,  
etc

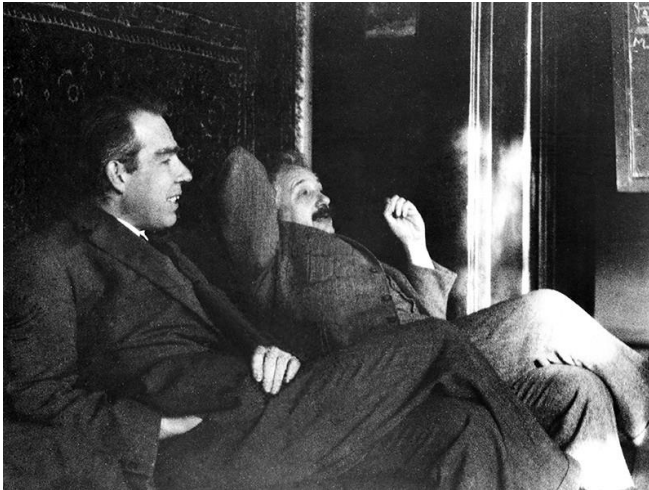
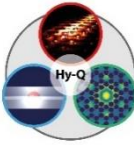


The *strange* quantum behavior  
unraveled by Bohr and Einstein holds  
the potential for **Q-tech 2.0**





# Denmark: The Birthplace of Quantum Mechanics

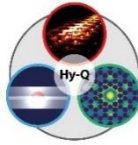


It took a century to take the leap from conceptual idea to emerging technology!



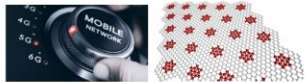


# Quantum Denmark Today



World-class research environments in DK

Can we capitalize on this opportunity?



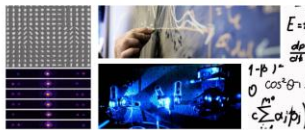
**AALBORG UNIVERSITY**  
Quantum materials | ICT  
Cyber security



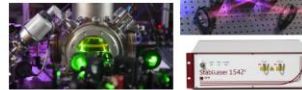
$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[e^{i\phi_a}|gg\dots g\rangle + e^{i\phi_b}|ee\dots e\rangle]$$



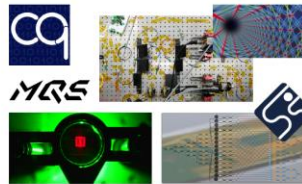
**AARHUS UNIVERSITY**  
Quantum information theory  
Ion trapping | Cold atom simulator



**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK**  
Nano optics | Quantum mathematics



**DANISH NATIONAL METROLOGY INSTITUTE**  
Frequency references | Characterizations  
Quantum light sources



**TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK**  
Quantum computing | QKD | QRNG  
Quantum sensors | Photonic circuits

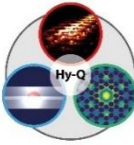


**UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN**  
Quantum devices & materials | QKD  
Single photons | Light-matter  
Quantum simulations | Algorithms

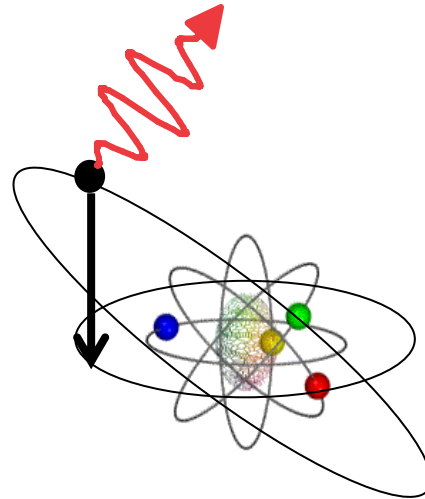
DIANA Quantum Centre DK (NATO), NNF centers for quantum materials and quantum simulators, etc



# Fundamentals of Photon Emission



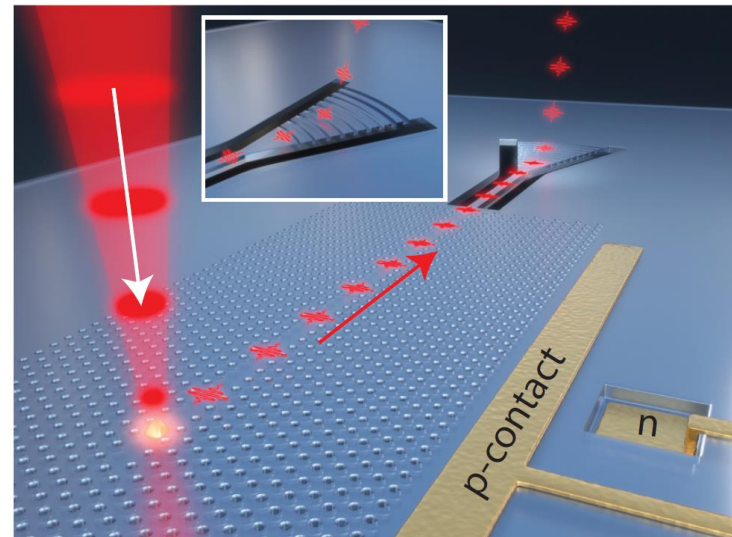
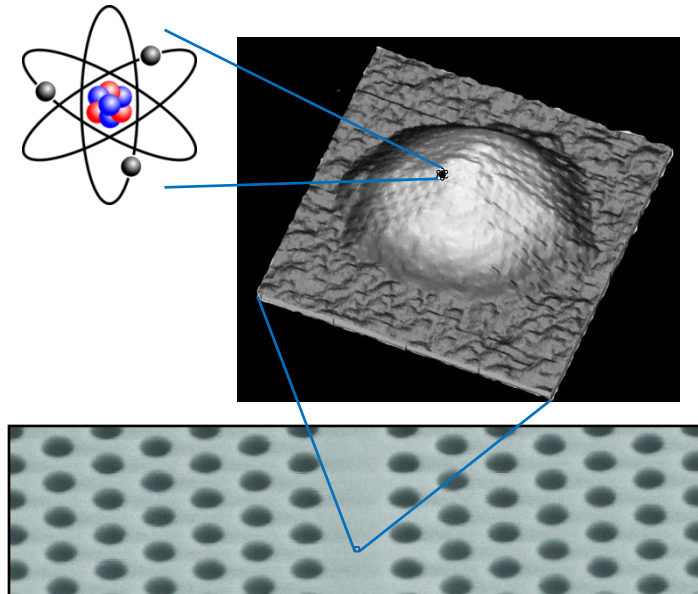
**Niels Bohr (1913):** an excited atom radiates a single quantum of light – the photon



**But:** the photon is emitted in random directions  
→ We need the ability to control light emission

**Answer:** modern nanophotonics technology

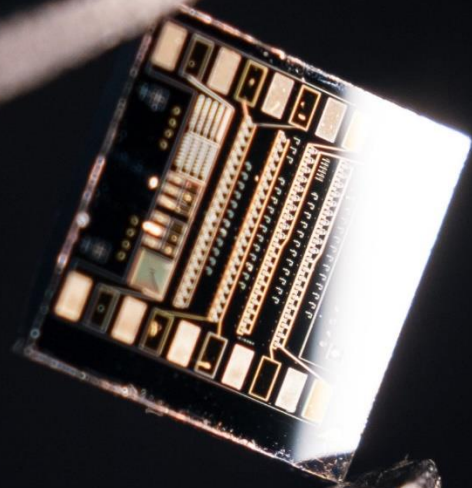
Quantum dots embedded in photonic cavities or waveguides



**No "free lunch" in quantum technology  
20 years of dedicated fundamental research**

*Bell Labs was an ivory tower with a factory  
downstairs* Jon Gertner, The Idea Factory

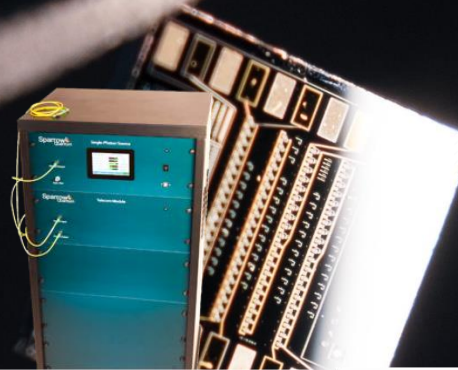
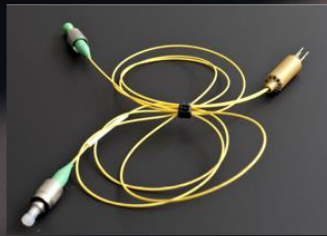
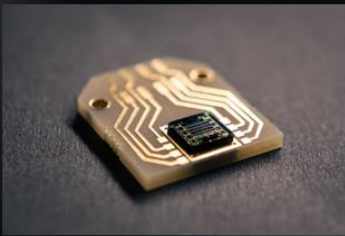
Patented technology at NBI



**Sparrow Quantum**



# Product Road Map



Single photon chip

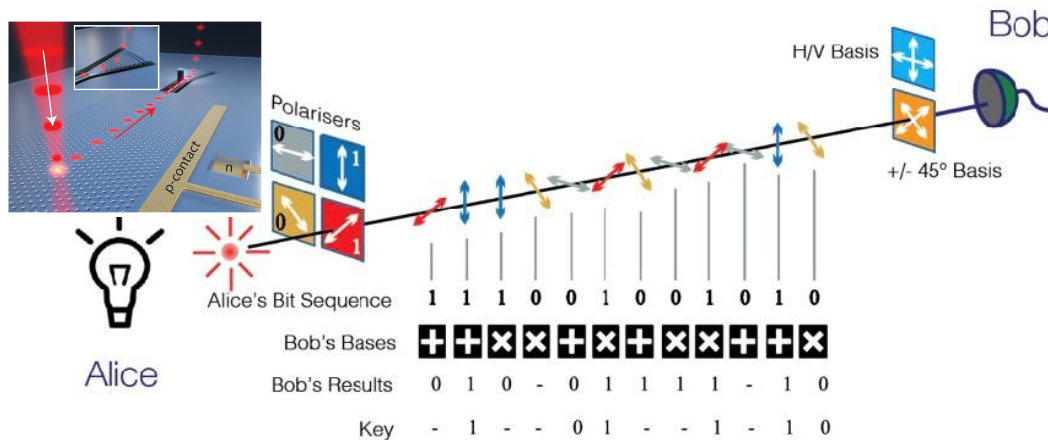
Fibre-couple assembly

Integrated source

Integrated Telecom source

- SQ closed a seed investment round in April 2023 (largest investment ever in Danish q-tech start-up)
- Strategic planning of the future product development (quantum secure communication, photonic quantum computing, quantum interconnects, etc.)



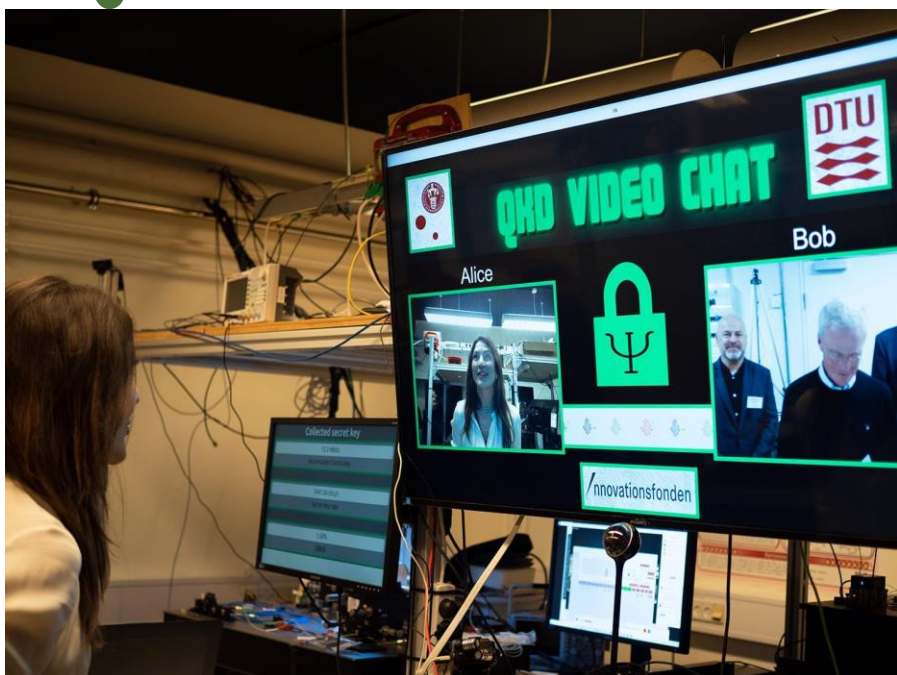


Unbreakable quantum secure communication



Image credit: Qutech, Delft

'Rolls-Royce' foundational quantum hardware towards fully device independence, quantum internet, etc



**Encrypted video call from NBI to DTU  
(Prof. Leif Oxenløwe's lab)**

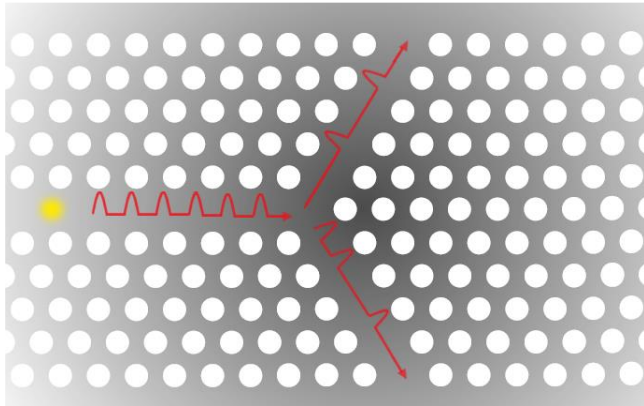
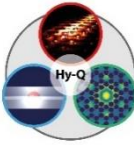
Direct synergy between SPOC and  
Hy-Q DNRf centers

**Possibly world's first live  
quantum encrypted TV  
interview**





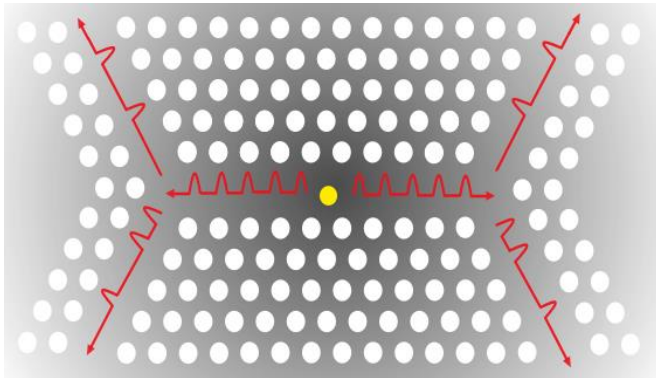
# Quantum Strangeness and Complexity



- A photon can be two different places at once: **superposition**

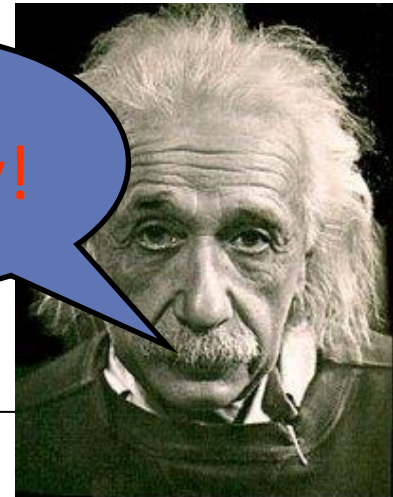
$$|\Psi\rangle = a |\uparrow\rangle + b |\downarrow\rangle \quad \text{The qubit}$$

- Two photons can be instantaneously connected: **entanglement**
- **Quantum complexity**: Just 100 photons can encode the information capacity ever generated by humankind



**Basis of radically new technology**

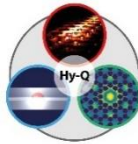
Spooky!







# Quantum Computing



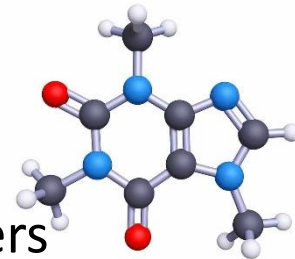
**Challenge:** computers cannot solve quantum problems

**Problem:** The World is quantum!

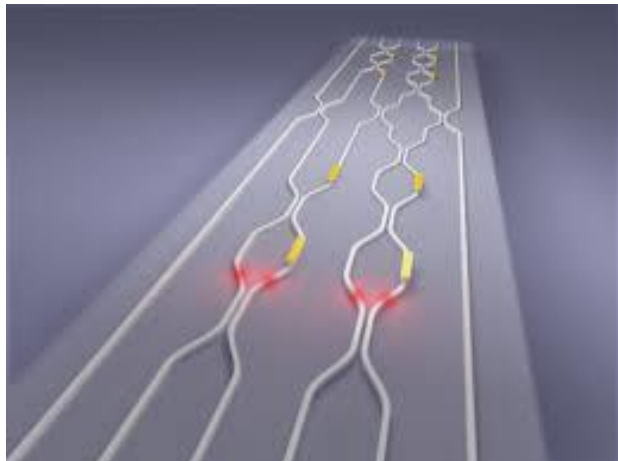
Quantum mechanics underpins high-tech

**Opportunity:** Exploit complexity to build quantum computers

- engineer new materials (energy)
- drug discovery (health)
- break encryption systems (security)
- big data, machine learning etc (e.g., logistics)



Caffeine  
 $C_8H_{10}N_4O_2$



*Nature isn't classical, dammit, and if you want to make a simulation of nature, you'd better make it quantum mechanical, and by golly it's a wonderful problem, because it doesn't look so easy.*

**R.P. Feynman (1982)**

