

Bernard Kress, PhD

Director, XR engineering, Google USA

**President, the International Society for Optics
and Photonics**



Bernard Kress is a world-renowned expert in the field of optics and photonics, specializing in micro-optics, nanophotonics, and display architectures for Augmented, Virtual, and Mixed Reality (AR/VR/MR) systems. With over 25 years of experience in the industry, he has been a driving force behind the optical hardware of some of the most significant wearable displays on the market.

Currently, he serves as the Director for XR Engineering at Google in Mountain View, California, a position he has held since 2021. Prior to this role, he was the Partner Optical Architect at Microsoft, where he led the optical development for the HoloLens platform. Earlier in his career, he was a key optical architect at Google [X] Labs, working on the original Google Glass.

His extensive career spans both academia and Silicon Valley entrepreneurship. He began as an associate professor at the University of Strasbourg in France before transitioning to the private sector, where he founded and grew more than a dozen successful optics and photonics start-ups.

A highly respected leader in the global scientific community, Kress served as the 2023 President of the International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE), where he has long chaired the industry-leading AR/VR/MR conference. He is a prolific author who has published several foundational books on micro-optics, authored hundreds of academic papers, and is listed as the principal inventor on over 100 patents.