

**Photovoltaic Solar Energy:
Photovoltaech achieves 17,3% cell efficiency on multicrystalline silicon Back
Contact MWT cells**

(May 17, 2010 – Tienen, Belgium) – Photovoltaech has manufactured its patented Metallization Wrap Through (MWT) solar cells on a project by project basis since 2004. These projects have been primarily building-integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) applications where the high aesthetic quality of MWT cells plays an essential role. Over the past several months, a large number of Photovoltaech's customers have shown increasing interest in MWT cells.

Since the beginning of this year Photovoltaech has increased and accelerated its R&D efforts on this subject. These efforts have produced a significant increase in efficiency resulting from process optimization, selection of new processing materials, and a major redesign of the cell structure. The average efficiency of multicrystalline silicon MWT cells fabricated in Photovoltaech's pilot production line now surpasses 17%, with top cell efficiencies of 17,3% measured using an Fraunhofer ISE-calibrated cell as reference. Further improvements are expected in the coming months.

This result is an important milestone in Photovoltaech's MWT development program, which targets the potential set-up of a new production line specifically dedicated to the fabrication of these MWT cells. Photovoltaech believes that introducing MWT cells on the PV market will play an important role in improving and differentiating its product from the existing industry standard cell design.

In parallel with the cell process development, Photovoltaech is engaged in a number of collaboration projects aimed at cost-effective tabbing and stringing methods for these MWT cells. The first modules based on some of these new connection methods will be presented at the European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition in Valencia, Spain in September 2010.

About Photovoltaech

Photovoltaech, manufacturer of multicrystalline silicon solar cells, was created in December 2001. As a spin-off of IMEC¹, Photovoltaech has a variety of innovative technologies at its disposal.

Photovoltaech currently has a yearly production capacity of 80 MWp². In August 2010 a new factory building will be ready to start up the first new production line. This expansion will increase the total yearly capacity to 150 - 160 MWp. The new factory building will have a total surface of 26.500 m² divided into 3 floors. Together with the present capacity in the other buildings, Photovoltaech will be able to host over time a total production capacity up to more than 500 MWp per year.

1. IMEC: Interuniversity MicroElectronics Center, Europe's leading independent research center in the field of microelectronics.

2. MWp: A megawatt-peak is equivalent to one million peak watts. The peak watt is the unit used to measure the standardized power output of a photovoltaic cell. It corresponds to one watt of electrical power under standard test conditions.

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