

*Press release*

## **The PV-center inaugurates a cleanroom and production laboratories**

### **Cutting-edge installations reaching for the sun**

**Neuchâtel, 19 May 2016 – Today CSEM unveils the new facilities at its [PV-center](#). The existing infrastructures have been extended with a cleanroom, module testing, and production laboratories covering over a thousand square meters. This will allow researchers to continue the work begun three years ago and explore different avenues to develop solar energy for the benefit of the economy and society.**

A number of personalities from the energy sector came to look around CSEM's new photovoltaic facilities in Neuchâtel. The addition of the 500 m<sup>2</sup> clean room and the 600 m<sup>2</sup> PV module testing and production laboratories means that the PV-Center is now fully operational. The Center provides an extraordinary environment for the 50 people who work there. They benefit from optimal working conditions in which to improve and test the various photovoltaic technologies and expand their scope of applications.

#### **Firmly industry-focused**

'These new infrastructures are unique in Switzerland. With them, we will be able to help Swiss companies increase their competitiveness,' explains Christophe Ballif, PV-Center Director. 'Although solar energy is enjoying rapid growth, it is still far from being used to its full potential – in association with everyday objects, for example.' The PV-Center was inaugurated three years ago and has rapidly forged itself a reputation that reaches beyond Swiss borders. It works to improve the performance of silicon cells using heterojunction technology (HJT) and has developed white and colored panels, a world first that has been a hit with architects.

#### **Helping Switzerland reach its energy goals**

'In the array of technologies developed by CSEM, photovoltaics are given special focus,' says Mario El-Khoury, CSEM's CEO. 'As this becomes more widespread, the world can dream of a cleaner future, where quality of life is maintained. This aspiration is a core value for our company.' The work of Christophe Ballif and his team aims to boost the appeal of solar energy, an undertaking that will help the Swiss Confederation hit its energy targets. The Federal Council fully appreciates this, which is why it provides the Center with financial support. The Center works with a range of industries and research laboratories in Switzerland – including the EPFL (the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne) photovoltaic laboratory in Neuchâtel, known as the PV-Lab.



*Images: From work in the cleanroom where cells are produced, to solar panel production and testing in the laboratory*

### Informations complémentaires

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### About CSEM

#### CSEM—technologies that make the difference

CSEM, founded in 1984, is a Swiss research and development center (public-private partnership) specializing in microtechnology, nanotechnology, microelectronics, system engineering, photovoltaics and communications technologies. Around 450 highly qualified specialists from various scientific and technical disciplines work for CSEM in Neuchâtel, Zurich, Muttenz, Alpnach, and Landquart.

Further information is available at [www.csem.ch](http://www.csem.ch)

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#### Cleanroom:

According to standard ISO 14644-1, a cleanroom is a room where the concentration of airborne particles is kept in check to minimise the introduction, generation or retention of particles inside, usually for specific industrial or scientific research purposes. Parameters such as temperature, humidity and relative pressure are also maintained at specific levels