

Press Release

SUPSI intensifies its collaboration with CSEM

Strengthening Swiss excellence in photovoltaic technology

Neuchâtel–Canobbio, 15th March 2017 – SUPSI and CSEM have decided to expand their collaboration in photovoltaic-related activities. With this intensified cooperation, the two Swiss R&D institutes intend to reinforce and integrate their competencies in research, development and testing with regard to PV modules and power plants. The goal is to respond to the increasing demand for innovative solar products and to the need for testing and accreditation of commercial solar systems, offering solutions right along the value chain of solar modules and power plants.

Photovoltaic energy is spreading rapidly around the globe, with the number of installations of new power plants exceeding expectations every year. This growth is accompanied by both a demand for increased reliability, quality and lifetime of PV products, and by the need for new product development, both for the power market and for building integrated photovoltaic solutions. SUPSI and CSEM have therefore decided to intensify their collaboration to be able to offer a full range of services, from new product development to testing and accreditation of existing or new products or power plants.

The considerable experience of SUPSI in the photovoltaic field focuses on new technology characterization, PV modules and system quality monitoring as well as on its verification through testing in the SUPSI PVLab, the only ISO 17025 accredited Swiss PV laboratory. CSEM's expertise in the field of photovoltaics includes the design and product development of innovative module concepts and BIPV elements, and the modeling and simulation of PV systems. It is cooperating closely with several institutions including EPFL, in particular its PV laboratory, in Neuchâtel. CSEM also runs a platform dedicated to the preparation of specialty polymer foils for PV products.

By joining their complementary forces, SUPSI and CSEM are able to make complete offers for various customers including industries, PV installers and architects. The services range from product performance verification, analysis of PV power plant performance and failures, to the development of cutting edge products through different phase development, from the initial concept up to the final industrialization. SUPSI and CSEM will collaborate in a joint research project focusing on reliability, and will develop new testing procedures to fully characterize innovative products, to accelerate their ageing, and to test their quality: the ISO 17025 accredited testing procedures will at the same time enable a safe introduction of new products to the market.

Although accredited testing will still continue in the SUPSI PVLab, measurements of PV-modules validated by SUPSI engineers will also be provided at CSEM facilities in Neuchâtel for all those needing reference values for their commercial PV modules.

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

Additional information

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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

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About SUPSI

SUPSI—Profession and Passion

The University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI) is one of the nine professional universities recognised by the Swiss Confederation.

Founded under federal law, SUPSI offers more than 30 Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree courses, characterised by cutting edge education which unites classical theoretical-scientific instruction with a professional orientation. Great care is given to research, carried out in key sectors on competitively acquired projects with large European and national agencies or mandated by organisations and institutions. The Institute for Applied Sustainability to the Built Environment (ISAAC) of SUPSI covers several research areas in the field of renewable energy, among which photovoltaics, with a dedicated PVLab.

Further information is available at www.supsi.ch | www.supsi.ch/isaac

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