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Sevilla, Spain, 2013

edited by R.A.J. Janssen

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edited by

René A. J. Janssen

Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands



SEFIN

Society for Nanomolecular Photovoltaics

Castelló

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Solar energy has an enormous potential for satisfying the future global energy demand. Hybrid and organic solar cells are making rapid advances in terms of efficiency, lifetime, and technology and have a true promise to become an important source of renewable energy. In addition, they present fascinating opportunities for scientific research and technological development. The main topics of this conference are the development, function and modeling of materials and devices for hybrid and organic solar cells, including dye-sensitized solar cells, polymer-fullerene solar cells, small molecule organic solar cells, and other 'excitonic' solar cell technologies, including hybrid organic-inorganic and nanostructured devices.

Building upon success of the previous HOPV conferences, the HOPV 2013 conference will provide a excellent opportunity for scientists and engineers around the world for discussions of the latest developments in hybrid and organic photovoltaics. The conference will be led by world leading invited speakers covering a broad range of the latest scientific advances in morning plenary sessions. The conference encourages presentation of oral as well as poster contributions from scientists from all over the world, which will be presented in two parallel sessions running in the afternoons. Just submit your abstracts before the deadline, which is strict. Special attention is given to the poster contributions.

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Prof. René A. J. Janssen

Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands



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Keynote Speakers	
Michael Grätzel	École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
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INDEX		
INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS		
I1	<u>Richard Friend</u> Organic semiconductor solar cells: the role of spin	19
I2	<u>Michael Grätzel</u> Perovskitenano-pigments and new molecularly engineered porphyrin light harvesters for mesoscopic solar cells.	-
I3	<u>Albert Polman</u> Light management for high-efficiency solar cells	20
I4	<u>Anders Hagfeldt</u> Recent development of nanostructured solar cells at the center for molecular devices	21
I5	<u>Peter Baeuerle</u> Thiophene-based nanomaterials for organic photovoltaics	-
I6	<u>Mercouri Kanatzidis</u> New materials enabling high efficiency all-solid-state dye-sensitized solar cells	22
I7	<u>Antonio Facchetti</u> Materials Synthesis and Processes for Printed Solar Cells	23
I8	<u>James Durrant</u> Stability studies of the photoactive layer of polymer/fullerene solar cells	24
I9	<u>Thuc-Quyen Nguyen</u> Effects of Impurity and Doping on Organic Solar Cell Performance	25
I10	<u>MukundanThelakkat</u> Fullerene-grafted copolymers exhibiting high electron mobility without nanocrystal formation	26
I11	<u>Dieter Neher</u> Efficient free charge carrier generation via low energy charge transfer states in polymer solar cells	27
I12	<u>Arie Zaban</u> Quantum Dots Based Photo-Electrochemical Solar Cells	28
I13	<u>Henry Snaith</u> Perovskite based hybrid solar cells	29
I14	<u>Germà García-Belmonte</u> Impedance response of organic bulk-heterojunction solar cells: From energy disorder and bulk recombination kinetics to outer contact effects	30
I15	<u>Susanna Thon</u> Architecture and Materials Engineering in Colloidal Quantum Dot Solar Cells	31
I16	<u>Frédéric Laquai</u> Efficiency-limiting Processes in Low-bandgapPolymer:Fullerene Photovoltaic Blends	32
I16	<u>Brian O'Regan</u> Excitonic solar cells under 60 suns, high temperatures, and other forms of abuse.	33
ORAL CONTRIBUTIONS		
O1	<u>Aurelien Viterisi</u> , Daniel Fernandez, Vijay Challuri, Núria Montcada, Francesc Gispert-Guirado, Eduardo Escudero, Emilio Palomares Investigating the molecular packing in crystalline domains of donors in small molecule Bulkheterojunction solar cell devices	34
O2	<u>Antonio Urbina</u> , Jose Abad, Anne Guilbert, Ji-Seon Kim, Jenny Nelson, Philipp Gutfreund, Robert Barker Neutron Reflectivity study of vertical segregation of PCBM in organic solar cells	35
O3	<u>Andrew Pearson</u> , Tao Wang, Alan Dunbar, Hunan Yi, Darren Watters, David Coles, Ahmed Iraqi, Richard Jones, David Lidzey Development of structure in PCDTBT:PC70BM blend films during solution casting	37
O4	<u>Jordi Martorell</u> , Rafael Betancur, Pablo Romero-Gomez, Alberto Martinez-Otero, Xavier Elias High performance semi-transparent cells with assisted infrared light trapping using a photonic crystal architecture	39
O5	<u>Kjell Cnops</u> , Bregt Verreert, David Cheyns, Barry Rand, Paul Heremans Subphthalocyanines as effective donors and acceptors in high-efficiency organic solar cells	40
O6	<u>Jörg Ackermann</u> , Anil K. Thakur, Sadokh Ben Dkhil, Meriem Graceur, Christine Videlot-Ackerman, Olivier Margeat Study of Zinc oxyde nanoparticle based interfacial layers for organic solar cells in normal structures	42

P44 Laser sealed DSCs: Efficiency and Long term stability analysis

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The environmental pollution arising from oil spills and the climatic consequences of the greenhouse effect caused by fossil fuels combustion fostered the development of several alternatives for energy production. Solar energy is the fastest growing segment of renewable energy sources, which in the non-OECD countries is expected to grow annually 22.8 % until 2035. The forecasts for 2015 put total installed photovoltaic (PV) capacity in the world between 131 GW and 196 GW^[1].

Dye sensitized solar cells (DSCs) are an important type of thin film photovoltaics (PV), which have attracted much attention since the work by Grätzel et al. in 1991.^[2] DSCs have been considered an effective alternative to conventional p-n junction devices mainly due to their low production cost and simple fabrication, ability to harvest diffuse light and versatile applications, such as flexible or light-weight products and BIPV applications^[3-5]. In fact, the DSC technology has recently been used in showcase applications by several companies (Sony, Panasonic, G24i, Dyesol, 3G Solar, etc). However, for DSCs become a competitive alternative to present PV technologies, major breakthroughs are necessary concerning the two critical aspects of any PV device: power conversion efficiency and lifetime. Regarding the device lifetime, at least 25 years of constant power conversion efficiency should be guaranteed for outdoor applications^[6-10]. Despite all the efforts to enhance DSCs' performance, long-term stability is still a major issue that limits market implementation. The long-term stability problem of the DSC design is directly related to the traditional sealing methods, which use a thermoplastic sealant as Surlyn[®] or Bynel[®].

This work follows our previously reported process^[11,12] for laser assisted glass frit sealing, and proves that the developed production process results in stable and efficient DSC devices. The laser sealing process is applied to several cell and module formats ranging from 1 to 230 cm² – Figure 1. The printed glass frit ensures a constant spacing between electrodes (~30 μm) and performance tests show that the laser sealing process does not affect the DSCs performance. Thermal experiments were conducted in a thermal chamber Aralab FitoClima 300 following the international standard IEC 61646 for thin-film terrestrial PV modules. Samples were analyzed concerning IV characteristics and EIS kinetics before and after the thermal cycles, proving that this sealing process can bring stable and efficient DSCs to the PV market.

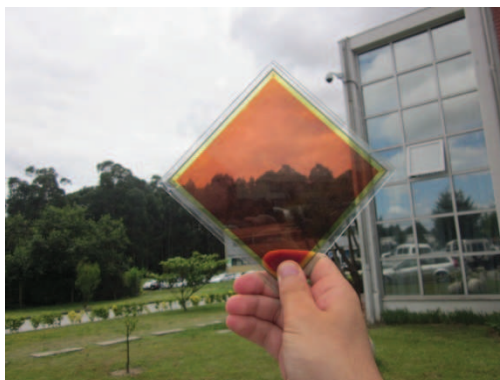


Figure 1 Dye sensitized solar cell (150x150 mm) produced by the laser assisted sealing process

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