



PILATUS



Dear reader,

I am happy to introduce the third newsletter of the PILATUS project. We are now halfway on our project and recently had a General Assembly in Neuchâtel, where the “pre-work” for PILATUS on the IBC technology was started. We also welcomed our new consortium partner NorSun (who will be responsible for the wafer pilot line planned for the project), with who we could meet in person and strengthen the connection with. Below you can read more about our project meeting and some technical and communication-related updates.

Anna Molinari - Coordinator PILATUS



PILATUS General Assembly No. 4 in Neuchâtel

On the 26th and 27th of March 2024, a PILATUS General Assembly meeting took place in Neuchâtel, organised by CSEM. With important updates from all the work packages it showed that all partners are ready for the second half of the project. Overall, we had a successful gathering and interesting tours through the CSEM and EPFL facilities, including a visit to EPFL’s outdoor test location for the PILATUS PV modules (see picture).



During the tour (for which the PILATUS partners were split up into 2 groups) we also received some history lesson on the PILATUS PV technology: It was in Neuchâtel where the initial research and development on the PILATUS PV technology happened. Also the first “scale up” of small cells to larger cells was performed at CSEM in the cell R&D facilities as can be seen on the [website](#).

Introduction of new partner NorSun

Since January 2024, NorSun has entered the PILATUS project and will work on the pilot line for M10 size ingot, block and wafer production and develop recipes for thin wafers, based on their long expertise in Czochralski crystal pulling, shaping and wafering. For NorSun the PILATUS project also fits well in their main company mission to establish production lines for M10 wafer format and beyond.

Intermediate evaluation on the PV market

Being in the middle (M18-M19) of the PILATUS project duration, an intermediate evaluation on the PV market has been done (PILATUS milestone 8). With the current situation of €0.13 per Wp for mainstream PV, while PILATUS aims for €0.20 per Wp, the bankability of the PILATUS SHJ-IBC modules manufactured in Europe is at this stage not yet promising. However, on the 5th of March it became clear that even Chinese solar manufacturer LONGi does not consider the PV market to be reasonable anymore. Nevertheless, the PILATUS technology presents other advantages like its exceptional durability and low CO₂ footprint which could support its adoption (see for more information this [PILATUS news item](#)).

Algorithms for cell and module process optimisation

Another PILATUS milestone (Milestone 5) was also achieved in April 2024 by CSEM: the algorithms for cell and module process optimisation were introduced and tested in the cell line at Meyer Burger Research and module line at Meyer Burger Switzerland. Deployment and performance results were reported. With these algorithms in place, industry 4.0 concepts to provide dynamic process optimisation, quality improvement, and predictive maintenance for the cell and module manufacturing can be tested during the remaining time of the project.

21st IUVSTA summer school in Czech Republic (3-7 June 2024)



We are thrilled to announce a summer school on Physics at Nanoscale, co-chaired by PILATUS-partner FZU that will take place at Skalsky Dvur in the Czech Republic between the 3rd and 7th of June. As well, one of the keynote speakers, Gizem Nogay, is from PILATUS-partner Meyer Burger Switzerland (MBCH). More information on the summer school can be found on [here](#).

If you are a young researcher interested in a wide range of physics topics including PV, this is your chance to join a school with such broad range of topics. Register [here](#).

Other upcoming events

- Digitalised and responsive PV: The driver of Grid and Market evolution (ETIP Annual Conference 2024): 22-23 May 2024 [Digitalised and responsive PV: The driver of Grid and Market evolution \(Annual Conference 2024\) - ETIP PV Conference - ETIP PV \(etip-pv.eu\)](#)
- Intersolar Europe, exhibition: 19-21 June 2024 [Intersolar Europe – Home - Intersolar Europe](#)
- EU PVSEC 41st Conference and Exhibition, 23-27 September 2024 [Home \(eupvsec.org\)](#)
- Metallization and Interconnection Workshop for Crystalline Solar Cells (MIW), 23-24 October 2024 in Chambéry, France, more info [here](#).

Facts and Figures

Start date: 01 November 2022
Project runtime: 36 months
Progress: 33%
Project ID: 101084046
EU-funding: €10.158.731



Coffe Break interviews

Want to know more about the people working on the PILATUS project? Then read the coffee break interviews with the partners of the project [here](#) on the website!



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