Press Release

Eindhoven, 30 January 2015

Hasselt University and Delft University of Technology become full academic partners of Solliance

Eindhoven, 30 January 2015 - Hasselt University and Delft-TU together with Solliance announce a new partnership in the field of thin film photovoltaics. Solliance is a cross-border initiative by ECN, imec, Holst Centre, TNO, Eindhoven University of Technology and Forschungszentrum Jülich. With Hasselt University and Delft-TU as additional academic partners, Solliance grows further as R&D cluster bringing thin film solar energy technology to excellence and is ramping up its activities to gain market share internationally. Some partner companies are successful global players in their segment already. The science and technology in this field are world class in selected areas, with a track record of 15 to 30 years.

Solliance works in close cooperation with industry, on three main thin film technologies: thin film silicon (Si), copper indium gallium selenide (CIGS) and alternatives and organic photovoltaics (OPV). For these principal themes Solliance collaborates with the industry at its new facility in Eindhoven, imec’s facilities in Leuven, Forschungszentrum Jülich and now expanded with the facilities in Hasselt and Delft. Solliance not only provides direct answers to the industry’s most pressing questions; it also concentrates on mid- and long term research towards generic technologies that will be vital to any thin film PV industry: testing, characterization and monitoring, laser technologies, light management by mechanical texturization, transparent conductive layers, monolithic interconnection, new OPV device development, new Perovskites concepts, thin film deposition techniques, sheet-to-sheet processing, roll-to-roll (R2R) processing, and in-line monitoring.

Professor Miro Zeman, Director of the Photovoltaic Materials and Devices group at Delft University of Technology: “This collaboration is a great example of the strategy of TU Delft not only doing excellent research, but to join institutions that can help us further to bring our knowledge to industry.”

Professor Dirk van der Zande, director of UHasselt’s imo-imomec research institute: “Joining Solliance stems from a deeply rooted belief that knowledge institutions have to serve as engines of innovation and, thereby, contribute to society’s development. The science of today can only grow into the technology of tomorrow if researchers share their knowledge and expertise with other researchers, innovators and investors.”

Huib van den Heuvel, Solliance’s director: “ Strengthened by our two new academic partners, our research on Thin Film PV now stretches across the entire field, from fundamentals of materials science to sophisticated production technologies.”
About Delft University of Technology:

As a leading engineering university in the world - sees its social mission to contribute to technology solutions that have a significant impact to accomplish a sustainable society and a thriving economy. TU Delft has positioned itself in the society as an open academic community which is widespread through its academic staff and alumni in the global academic world and rooted in national and regional social and economic environment. More info: www.tudelft.nl

About University Hasselt:

Hasselt University (Dutch: Universiteit Hasselt, UHasselt) is a university with campuses in Hasselt and in Diepenbeek, Belgium. True to its baseline ‘Knowledge in action’, Hasselt University has grown into an innovative and dynamic university – an institution which provides for a qualified workforce, locally adapted research, appropriate services and technologies for the region. The university has seven research institutes (which cover a wide range of research areas: biomedical, environmental, statistical, material, transportation research, innovation management research and media technology research). More info: www.uhasselt.be (Twitter: @uhasselt / Facebook: www.facebook.com/uhasselt)

About Eindhoven University of Technology:

Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) is an academic research-driven international university with 9,000 students in the innovative high-tech region Brainport in the south of the Netherlands. TU/e develops technology solutions for the grand challenges that society faces in the areas of sustainable energy, health and mobility. Strong ties with industry result in excellent research with impact in fields such as high-tech systems, high-tech materials and data science. For more information, please see www.tue.nl

About Solliance:

Solliance is a partnership of R&D organizations working in photovoltaic solar energy (PV) in the ELAT region (Eindhoven-Leuven-Aachen). In order to strengthen the region’s position as a world player in PV, Solliance is creating the required synergy by consolidating and coordinating the activities of industry, research institutes and universities. Solliance partners are: ECN, imec, TNO, Holst Centre, TU/e, Forschungszentrum Jülich and of today University Hasselt and Delft University of Technology. Solliance is supported by the Dutch province of North Brabant, which has dedicated € 28 million to Solliance. On June 12, 2014 Solliance opened a new large shared laboratory at the High Tech Campus in Eindhoven with the newest unique equipment, mostly pre-pilot production facilities, complementing the partner’s labs which are also available to the other partners. In order to make optimal use of these lab facilities, they are open to valorization programs in joint research with industry. Solliance collaborates with all main companies and institutes in the world. Solliance offers participation in its research and opens up its lab facilities to new entrants, either from industry or in research. On the basis of clear Intellectual Property (IP) agreements, each industrial partner can participate in this research effort, or alternatively, hire equipment and experts to further develop its own technology. See: www.solliance.eu
Contact

Solliance:
Huib van den Heuvel, tel. +31 (0)88 5154985 or +31 (0)6 23113126, vandenheuvel@solliance.eu

Hasselt University:
Koen Santermans, tel. +32 (0)11 268009, koen.sastermans@uhasselt.be

Delft University of technology:
Prof. Dr. Miro Zeman, tel. +31 (0)15 2782409, M.Zeman@tudelft.nl
Wendy Batist, TU Delft media relations officer, tel. +31 (0)15 2788 499 or +31 (0)6 43468356, g.m.batist@tudelft.nl