

Press Release

Heraeus Photovoltaics and Meyer Burger join forces to pave the way for new heterojunction solar cell technologies

Heterojunction solar cell technology offers strong growth opportunities and high efficiency gains in the next years

SHANGHAI, CHINA – April 19, 2017 – Heraeus Photovoltaics, a leading provider of technology and service solutions for the renewable energy industry, and Meyer Burger, a leading supplier of production equipment for the photovoltaic industry, have formed a cooperation to further drive the development of heterojunction (HJT) solar cell technology.

With efficiencies above 23 %, heterojunction solar cells are regarded as one of the most promising successor to replace current technologies and are expected to triple their market share in the next ten years. Heraeus Photovoltaics and Meyer Burger will work together to enhance the development of metallization pastes for HJT solar cells, which have specific requirements for the metallization since they have to be produced at significantly lower process temperatures than conventional solar cells.

Heraeus will deliver modified low temperature silver pastes on polymer basis, which cure at temperatures below 200°Celsius, while Meyer Burger provides a new HJT pilot production line for performing joint trial runs with Heraeus and Meyer Burger experts. Together they are developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Best Known Methods (BKM) for the heterojunction solar cell production at Meyer Burger.

Common silver pastes used for HJT cells are stored at minus 40°Celsius and need additional time for defrosting. Once defrosted, they can't be re-used. Heraeus metallization pastes are much more customer and environmentally friendly: The paste can be stored at room temperature, which eradicates the infrastructure for freezers. Also, the waste is eliminated, since opened metallization pastes can easily be re-used again.

The further development of low temperature metallization pastes also results in large efficiency gains of above 0.1%, significant savings in the use of the precious metal silver as well as higher customer satisfaction due to simplified handling of the metallization paste.

“Heraeus Photovoltaics and Meyer Burger are both developing pioneering technologies for the renewable energies industry. Together we will join forces and exchange our expertise to spearhead the development of technologies for high-efficient heterojunction solar cells,” says Andreas Henning, Chief Technology Manager at Heraeus Photovoltaics.

Heraeus exhibits its full range of products and services at the 11th SNEC International Photovoltaic Power Generation Conference & Exhibition 2017 in Shanghai.

##

##

##

About the Heraeus Photovoltaics Global Business Unit

The Heraeus Photovoltaics Business Unit is an industry leading developer and manufacturer of silver metallization pastes as well as a provider of solutions and services for the photovoltaic industry. For over 40 years, Heraeus has built a reputation of innovation, extensive research and new product development in thick film technologies for some of the most prominent companies within a variety of industries. In the field of photovoltaics, the Heraeus Photovoltaics Business Unit applies this history and its innovative technology to offer metallization pastes for solar cell applications as well as solutions and services to increase efficiency in wafer production processes. The Heraeus SOL Series of silver pastes is specially formulated to provide higher efficiencies and wider processing windows, resulting in better yields and higher output for cell manufacturers.

Heraeus, the technology group headquartered in Hanau, Germany, is a leading international family-owned company formed in 1851. In 2016, it has been awarded one of the ten most important family owned businesses. With expertise, a focus on innovations, operational excellence and an entrepreneurial leadership, we strive to continuously improve our business performance. We create high-quality solutions for our clients and strengthen their competitiveness in the long term by combining material expertise with technological know-how. Our ideas are focused on themes such as the environment, energy, health, mobility and industrial applications. Our portfolio ranges from components to coordinated material systems which are used in a wide variety of industries, including the steel, electronics, chemical, automotive and telecommunications industries. In the 2015 financial year, Heraeus generated revenues without precious metals of €1.9 bn and a total revenue including precious metal of €12.9 bn. With approximately 12,500 employees worldwide in more than 100 subsidiaries in 38 countries, Heraeus holds a leading position in its global markets.

Trade Press Contact:

Kevin Chen
Corporate Communications Manager
Phone: + 86 21 3357 5261
E-Mail: kevin.chen@heraeus.com

For additional information, please contact:

Michael Treutel
Senior Vice President Marketing
Heraeus Photovoltaics
Phone: +49 (6181) 35-2295
E-Mail: michael.treutel@heraeus.com