

MasterPV

Innovative manufacturing solutions for cost-efficient semitransparent BIPV

Project duration: from 09.2018 to 07.2021

Report submitted: 09.2021

Publishable Summary

MasterPV has addressed the **development of innovative transparent back contacts in Cu(In,Ga)Se₂ (CIGS) solar cells for cost efficient semi-transparent modules**. CIGS semi-transparent modules can be achieved with transparency levels up to 30%-40% by selectively removal of part of the absorbers in the devices. However, the optical quality of state of the art devices is strongly compromised by the presence of a Mo back contact that is currently used in the CIGS device architecture.

The project has involved the **replacement of the Mo back contact in the traditional CIGS device architecture by chemical vacuum-free based TCO (Transparent Conductive Oxide) electrodes**. This will allow achieving a significant improvement in the aesthetic quality of the semi-transparent devices, with the elimination of the back mirror effect that is determined by the remaining Mo regions in the semi-transparent modules. Use of chemical based processes for the fabrication of the back contacts will also allow a reduction of the manufacturing costs, because of the replacement of the expensive vacuum-based Mo sputtering deposition processes by lower cost approaches that are based in vacuum-free chemical processes.

The main scientific challenge achieved in the project is related to the development of optimal transparent back contact configurations allowing for solar cell efficiencies comparable to the high efficiency values that have already been achieved in CIGS technologies with the standard Mo based back contacts. This has required a special effort in the optimization of TCO based contacts suitable for high efficiency devices, which has been based on the development of back contact configurations including nanometric sized functional layers deposited onto the TCO back contact. Optimal back contact configurations identified in the project correspond to the use of chalcogenide (MoSe₂, MoS₂) nanometric functional layers and ITO as the TCO. The activities developed in the project have allowed the successful fulfilment of the main **scientific and technological Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) defined in MasterPV**:

- Demonstration of optimised back contacts leading to device efficiencies $\geq 80\%$ (for vacuum based processes) and $\geq 65\%$ (close to the target of 70%, for chemical based processes), of that achieved with reference Mo-based devices;
- Demonstration of the scalability of processes by the development of 10x10 cm² semi-transparent module prototypes with 10%-35% transparency in the visible region.

The main technological challenge is related to the implementation of low cost vacuum-free ink-jet printing processes for the growth of the optimal ITO based transparent back contacts configurations and to the adaptation of these processes for the fabrication of efficient semi-transparent CIGS modules. At commercial level, the improvement of the aesthetic quality of the semi-transparent modules and the decrease of their cost will contribute to the consolidation of CIGS as one of the main commercial technologies able to answer the increasing demand of cost-efficient and reliable semi-transparent products in the BIPV market. This will allow the development of semi-transparent modules with higher optical quality and combining the high efficiency and high stability characteristic of CIGS solar cells.

Project consortium

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Participating countries and financing:

Country	Number of organisations involved	Project costs in EUR	Public funding in EUR
Spain	2	354'518	271'009
Germany	1	208'413	208'413
<i>Total</i>	3	<i>562'931</i>	<i>479'422</i>

Funding agencies involved and contracts

Funding Agency	Contract N° and Title
Agencia Estatal de Investigación AEI	PCI2018-092945, Innovative manufacturing solutions for cost-efficient semitransparent BIPV
CDTI	EXP-00108913/SERA-20181028
BMW/PtJ	0324230

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