

## Press information

# KYOCERA joins imec's industrial affiliation program on advanced silicon solar cell technology

**September 24, 2014 – Kyoto/Neuss** – Belgian nanoelectronics research centre imec and Kyocera Corporation announced that Kyocera, the Japanese high-tech electronics company and manufacturer of photovoltaic (PV) cells, modules and systems, has joined imec's industrial affiliation program (IIAP) to advance next-generation crystalline silicon solar cells.

This multi-partner R&D program aims at increasing the efficiency of solar cells and modules while at the same time lowering the cost for solar energy. This is done through the development of innovative industry-relevant solutions on different crystalline silicon solar cell technology platforms with improved efficiencies ranging from 22.5% to 25%.

The IIAP creates a research ecosystem for accelerating the development of intellectual property, sharing R&D resources and risks, providing companies a cost-effective way to extend their research and product development capabilities. Researchers from energy companies, solar cell manufacturers and material and equipment suppliers collaborate with imec's solar experts on developing advanced processes and testing them on imec's semi-industrial pre-pilot line. Covering the complete solar cell value chain, imec's industrial affiliation program provides essential information to help its partners make the right R&D choices to innovate their solar cell technologies, supporting them to maintain a competitive positioning in the solar cell market.

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“We are excited that Kyocera, a powerhouse in the solar manufacturing business, has joined our research program. The commitment from Kyocera is a confirmation of the significance of our solar cell research for the global PV market,” said Luc Van den hove, president and CEO at imec. “It is my strongest conviction that only by investing in R&D and innovation, companies can prepare for the future and stay ahead of the competition in a challenging environment such as the PV market.”

“By collaborating with imec and its partners, we hope to further advance silicon photovoltaic cell technologies in order to make solar energy more accessible and usable for society,” stated Nobuo Kitamura, senior executive officer and general manager of the Corporate Solar Energy Group at Kyocera Corporation. “As a pioneer of solar energy with over four decades of experience, Kyocera remains committed to promoting the further use of solar power generation and we believe that the IIAP provides us with these opportunities by bringing together the expertise from leaders in the industry.”

**For more information about Kyocera:** [www.kyocera.eu](http://www.kyocera.eu)

**For more Information about imec:** [www2.imec.be](http://www2.imec.be)

### About Kyocera

Headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, Kyocera Corporation is one of the world's leading manufacturers of fine ceramic components for the technology industry. The strategically important divisions in the Kyocera Group, which is comprised of 230 subsidiaries (as of April 1, 2014), are information and communications technologies, products which increase quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the largest producers of solar energy systems worldwide, with more than 5 gigawatts of solar power having been installed around the world to date.

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The company is ranked #531 on *Forbes* magazine's 2014 "Global 2000" listing of the world's largest publicly traded companies.

With a global workforce of about 70,000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €10.19 billion in fiscal year 2013/2014. The products marketed by the company in Europe include laser printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, fineceramic products and complete solar power systems. The Kyocera Group has two independent companies in the Federal Republic of Germany: Kyocera Fineceramics GmbH in Neuss and Esslingen and Kyocera Document Solutions in Meerbusch.

The company also takes an active interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, a prominent international award, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation — established by Kyocera founder Dr. Kazuo Inamori — to individuals and groups worldwide who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of humankind (converted at present €362,000 per prize category).

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