

## **Smit Ovens and SoLayTec start co-operation on Large Area spatial ALD, to develop a tool for the Solliance CIGS/CZTS program**

***Cooperation between technology leaders will accelerate development of cost efficient solution for Large Area ALD in Thin Film PV & Display market***

Eindhoven – Wednesday, September 11 - Smit Ovens and SoLayTec are joining forces for Large Area applications of spatial ALD. The cooperation creates maximum leverage of the experience of both companies to allow for a fast market introduction. Applications foreseen include buffer and barrier layers for Thin film PV and layers for improved TFT structures as required for OLED displays.

The process development tool which will be integrated in the existing CIGS development line is part of the CIGS/CZTS Solliance program. It will be used for development of alternative buffer layers as well as other layers that can improve device structure and performance.

Under the cooperation between Smit Ovens and SoLayTec it is agreed that both parties contribute on technical aspects that best match their experience. SoLayTec will focus on the injector head development in order to maximize the experience of their extremely successful product in the c-Si PV market, InPassion ALD. Smit Ovens will take the role of machine integrator and act as contract partner to the customers.

“We are very excited about this cooperation since it allows us to achieve two strategic targets at the same time,” says Wiro Zijlmans, CEO of Smit Ovens. “We are able to offer an advanced process solution for the buffer layer to our existing customers for CIGS crystallization. On top of that we are able to expand our market penetration in the Display market which we were already addressing with drying & sintering solutions.”

“After having successfully launched our first products in the market for crystalline PV, we now are able to use the proven deposition technology for the next market opportunity, “according Huib Heezen, managing director of SoLayTec. “Also, we are very enthusiastic about our cooperation with an experience player as Smit ovens as this enables us to market both our combined areas of expertise within a short time frame.”

### **About Smit Ovens**

Founded in Nijmegen, the Netherlands in 1936, Smit Ovens is a leading supplier of customized thermal equipment and processes for the photovoltaic, glass and display industries. It employs around 50 people and currently has around 3000 installations operating, including some 86 in the solar industry.

[www.smitovens.nl](http://www.smitovens.nl)

### **About SoLayTec**

SoLayTec is a spin-off company from the Dutch research organisation *Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek* (TNO) and established in 2010. The company develops, delivers and services machines for atomic layer deposition (ALD) on solar cells worldwide. The SoLayTec ALD machines are intended for research and industrial production in the solar market. SoLayTec high volume production equipment is exclusively sold by RENA GmbH on the market.

[www.solaytec.com](http://www.solaytec.com)

### **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 and Forschungszentrum Jülich. Solliance is supported by the Dutch province of North Brabant, which has dedicated € 28 million to Solliance. This will fund a large shared laboratory at High Tech Campus in Eindhoven with the newest equipment, 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 aims to collaborate 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.

[www.solliance.eu](http://www.solliance.eu)

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