

## PRESS RELEASE

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# **SULFURCELL Will Be SOLTECTURE: Ten Years of Excellence in CIS-Technology und Solar Construction**

- **Thin-Film pioneer Sulfurcell will be Solteature**
- **Excellence in production after three successful ramp-up phases**
- **Highest efficiency potentials with CIGSe-modules in the thin-film space**
- **From a manufacturer to integrated system solution provider**

**Berlin, May 20, 2011** – On the ten-year anniversary of its founding, CIS thin-film pioneer Sulfurcell will be renamed Solteature. The Berlin-based company's new name reflects the excellence of the company's integrated solar solutions.

CEO and Founder Dr. Nikolaus Meyer explains:

“The renaming is a logical step that takes the evolution of our company into account. The new name ‘Solteature’ gets to the heart of our core competencies and stands for superior performance in solar, technology, and architecture. With the renaming we are signaling and underlining the development of the company from module manufacturer to a provider of optimum integrated PV system solutions.”

Solteature (Sulfurcell) can look back on a ten-year history of success in CIS thin-film technology. Solteature has been a pioneer in the PV thin-film space since its founding and continues its technological leadership today. From the early module market introduction of thin-film modules based on CIS semiconductors in 2005 and the ramp-up of three fabrication lines to recent record efficiencies of 13.0 percent with innovative CIGSe technology, Solteature stands for excellence in thin-film.

Solteature has received multiple awards for its cutting-edge research and product development. In 2010 Eurosolar awarded the company the badge of the German Solarprize and the Germany-wide initiative “Land of Ideas” recognized Solteature (Sulfurcell) as an exemplary and sustainable company. Furthermore, the UK's *Guardian* newspaper listed Solteature among the “hottest 100 clean technology companies in Europe” in the years 2009 and 2010.

### **Technology Roadmap: 14% Efficiency, 90% Yield in 10-16 Months**

Solteature achieves worldwide peak results with CIS solar modules based on CIGSe semiconductors. The company unveiled the new high-efficiency modules to the public at the end of 2010. TÜV Rheinland officially confirmed the output of 94 watt or 12.6 percent aperture efficiency. Only weeks later 13.0 percent has already been achieved. Industrial mass production of the new products has begun. During continuing shift operation (24/7) within just three months of the start of production, a yield of over 80% has been achieved. More than 4 out of 5 high efficiency solar modules produced are meeting the required specifications.

The rapid increase in yields in Solteature's state-of-the-art mass production and the marginal deviance in module power ( $90W \pm 3W$ ) confirm process stability, which is widely recognized as an extraordinary challenge in thin-film module production.

This rapid advancement affirms Solteature's position as one of the leading players in the CIS thin-film space and the ambitious roadmap for the company. In the coming 10-16 months, module-efficiency will be increased to more than 14%. Production yields will increase to over 90%. Based on successful quality control and on the background of series production readiness, the sales and distribution of the new modules have already begun.

### **Highest Efficiency Potentials With CIGSe-Modules in the Thin-Film Space**

Since the end of 2008, Solteature has begun work on second generation technology, which deploys a CIS layer based on selenium instead of sulfur (indicated by the abbreviation CIGSe instead of CIGS). In the laboratory this technology has been proven to yield the highest efficiencies in the thin-film space.

CIGS- and CIGSe modules are produced with the same equipment in Solteature's 35MW production plant in Berlin, Germany. Only for the CIGSe coating process, new specially developed equipment is being used. Yearly production capacity for the product line CIGS is 20MW; the capacity for CIGSe is currently being expanded from 5MW to 15MW.

Solteature's research and development work as well as its highly flexible production line in Berlin provides the ideal framework for the development and production of the thin-film products of the future.

### **From Manufacturer to Integrated System Solution Provider**

In ten years Solteature has evolved from a leading manufacturer of high-performance thin-film modules to a provider of integrated system solutions. Solteature offers standardised solutions for intelligent integration of their high-performance and optically aesthetic thin-film modules for construction challenges such as roofs, factories, and modern facades.

"With their engineering expertise and years of experience in solar technology our engineers constantly develop new PV solutions that are perfectly adjusted for solar architecture," explains Henrik Kruepper, Executive Director and Chief Sales Officer at Solteature. "We offer our clients solar integration from one source and that makes us successful in the market."

These developments have been made possible by the trust of international investors. In recent years, renowned international investors including Intel Capital, Climate Change Capital, and the Vattenfall Europe- and GdF Suez-supported BEU Fund have provided Solteature with growth financing amounting to more than 110 million Euros. In the newest financing round on January 2011 investors led by Intel Capital provided 18.8 million Euros for the further development of the company's innovative CIGSe technology. With this fresh capital, Solteature is forging ahead with development of production machinery and increasing the capacity of its fully-automated manufacturing facility for the new CIGSe modules.

**About Solteature**

*Solteature, which was founded in 2001, is a spin-off from the Helmholtz Centre Berlin for Materials and Energy. With 250 employees, the company is now globally one of the three leading manufacturers of thin-film solar power modules based on CIS semiconductors. Solteature has received multiple awards for its cutting edge research and product development. The UK's Guardian newspaper recently once again listed the Berlin company among the "hottest 100 clean technology companies in Europe". In recent years, renowned international investors, including Intel Capital, Climate Change Capital, and the of Vattenfall Europe- and GdF Suez-supported BEU Fund, have provided Solteature growth financing amounting to more than 110 million euros. This fresh capital has been utilised for constructing new production facilities and for research and development. Further information is available at: [www.solteature.com](http://www.solteature.com).*

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