

## **The SOLCIS project: Towards manufacturing innovative CIGS panels in Paris Saclay**

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The SOLCIS project started in 2018 after the bankrupt of the CROSSLUX Company, which aimed to develop semi-transparent modules of CIGS for BIPV application using the electro-deposition technology pioneered by IRDEP and NEXCIS since 2002. CROSSLUX acquired the production equipments developed by NEXCIS since 2009, but failed to put them again in operation. As the equipments were available for selling, for a very limited amount of money as compared to their inner value, Daniel Lincot at CNRS-IPVF proposed to save the most innovative part of the technology, i.e. the electro-deposition lines which included a pilot line for a (1.20 x 0.6 m<sup>2</sup>) full module size with an annual capacity of 20 MW. The (difficult) decision to buy the lines and smaller size equipments was taken in May 2018.

In July 2020, the project to create a development platform for electrochemical processes and CIGS technologies was successfully approved by the Administration Council of the Paris-Sud University (now Paris-Saclay University), which proposed to store the equipments in a 450 m<sup>2</sup> floor space in the Orsay campus. This campus is located in the Yvette's valley, near by IPVF. Jean Michel Lourtioz at C2N and University Paris Saclay decided to join the project. Since this date, the technical area was transformed step by step into an operational unit. A strategy was implemented to create a technological platform for electrochemical processes with semi-industrial tools both for a small-scale pilot production and student education projects.

The SOLCIS project is now entering a new stage with the key challenge of reinstalling and redirecting the whole electro-deposition lines for new applications in close relation with those of the IPVF UMR, which is the host of the platform. We will present the status of the SOLCIS project, its short-term industrial prospects, and future projects for implanting an innovative PV module production unit in Paris Saclay.