PRESS RELEASE

ROLLING SOLAR: DURABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION IN ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Eindhoven (Netherlands), January 9, 2019 – Today the starting event of Interreg project Rolling Solar will take place at High Tech Campus in Eindhoven. Involving 32 parties from the Solliance Solar Research Network, located in Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, the project aims to generate at large scale solar electricity on public road infrastructure. The project is coordinated by TNO.

Solar modules will provide an increasing part of our future energy demand, as they can be produced at low cost and with high energy efficiency. But for power generation of hundreds of gigawatts, they require a large area to collect the sunlight: roadmaps towards 2050 predict total solar module areas up to 1.400 km^2 for the Netherlands alone. To make optimal use of available area, and to generate power close to the location where it is needed, it is highly desirable to integrate solar modules into road construction materials as these represent a vast area of already built surfaces (that is over 1.000 km^2 in the Netherlands) and power demand for transport will be increasingly electric.

The project aims to demonstrate innovative integration of thin and flexible solar cell materials in road surfaces and noise barriers, to reduce financial cost, and to develop guidelines for safe and durable integration. Regional industry and building companies, research institutes and public stakeholders are brought together in this consortium to stimulate both regional economy and energy transition.

The 3 year, 5.7 million Euro project, is made possible by financial support from the European Union through the Interreg EMR program, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, and the provinces of Noord-Brabant, Liège, Vlaams-Brabant and Limburg (B).

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About Solliance

Solliance is a alliance of R&D organizations and universities from the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany working in thin film photovoltaic solar energy, led by imec and TNO. 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 250 researchers in industry, at research institutes and universities.

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Various state-of-the-art laboratories and pilot production lines are jointly used for dedicated research programs which are executed in close cooperation with the solar business community.
Solliance offers participation in its research programs 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.

About imec

Imec is the world-leading research and innovation hub in nano-electronics, energy and digital technologies. The combination of our widely acclaimed leadership in microchip technology and profound software and ICT expertise is what makes us unique. By leveraging our world-class infrastructure and local and global ecosystem of partners across a multitude of industries, we create groundbreaking innovation in application domains such as healthcare, smart cities and mobility, logistics and manufacturing, and energy.
As a trusted partner for companies, start-ups and universities we bring together close to 3,500 brilliant minds from over 70 nationalities. Imec is headquartered in Leuven, Belgium and also has distributed R&D groups at a number of Flemish universities, in the Netherlands, Taiwan, USA, China, and offices in India and Japan. In 2015, imec's revenue (P&L) totaled 415 million euro and of iMinds which is integrated in imec as of September 21, 2016 52 million euro. Further information on imec can be found at www.imec.be
Imec is a registered trademark for the activities of IMEC International (a legal entity set up under Belgian law as a "stichting van openbaar nut"), imec Belgium (IMEC vzw supported by the Flemish Government), imec the Netherlands (Stichting IMEC Nederland, part of Holst Centre which is supported by the Dutch Government), imec Taiwan (IMEC Taiwan Co.) and imec China (IMEC Microelectronics (Shanghai) Co. Ltd.) and imec India (Imec India Private Limited), imec Florida (IMEC USA nanoelectronics design center).
Imec is also a partner in EnergyVille (www.energyville.be), an association of the Flemish research centers KU Leuven, VITO, imec and UHasselt in the field of sustainable energy and intelligent energy systems.

About TNO

TNO is an independent research organization of the Netherlands and connects people and knowledge to create innovations that boost the competitive strength of industry and the well-being of society in a sustainable way. This is our mission and it is what drives us, the over 3,200 professionals at TNO, in our work every day. We believe in the joint creation of economic and social value and we work in collaboration with partners and focus on nine domains:

- *Buildings, Infrastructure & Maritime : 'Robust constructions, sustainable use'*
- *The Circular Economy and the Environment: 'Directing and accelerating sustainability'*
- *Defense, Safety and Security: 'We're putting our knowledge and technology to work for safety and security'*
- *Energy: 'Faster towards a sustainable energy supply'*
- *Healthy living: 'Focusing on participation, not on the disease'*
- *Industry: 'Innovating for employment, welfare and well-being'*
- *Information & Communication Technology: 'Interpreting and accelerating digital transformation'*
- *Strategic Analysis & Policy: 'Turning complex issues into concrete innovations'*
- *Traffic and Transport: 'Helping to create live able, sustainable cities'*
- *Innovation with purpose is what TNO stands for. We develop knowledge not for its own sake, but for practical application.*