

Optimum efficiency for the photovoltaic industry

(Asslar, September 4, 2007) – Crystal Growing Systems GmbH (CGS), Asslar, a wholly-owned subsidiary of PVA TePla AG, along with its partner ersol Wafers reaches a new milestone in crystal-pulling technology for photovoltaic applications as part of a research and development project.

CGS crystal-pulling systems have been used to realize a process that can pull silicon monocrystals with a diameter of 300 mm for solar wafers. Using this process, it is now possible to produce wafers measuring 210 mm x 210 mm with a thickness of 220µm, compared with the previous standard wafer format measuring 156 mm x 156 mm.

This 300 mm pulling process offers the advantage of significantly greater yield in terms of wafer area, and ensures maximum utilization of each pulling system. The manufacturing costs of these larger formats can now be greatly reduced. For the manufacturers of solar wafers, this translates into a drastic saving in investment, while lower energy consumption will significantly shorten the energy amortization period for solar systems.

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