

BOOK REVIEW

FLEXIBLE SOLAR CELLS. Mario Pagliaro, Giovanni Palmisano and Rosaria Ciriminna, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, Germany, 2008. No. of pages: 190. ISBN 978-3-527-32375-3

Solar energy is the most abundant energy resource but taming it into a practical energy form constitutes an enormous economical and technological challenge. Conversion of solar radiation into electricity through the photovoltaic (PV) technology can be characterized as an elegant way to produce electricity and perhaps even as the final energy solution. But reaching such a goal will necessitate major innovations and radical scaling up of production capacity. New PV technologies and flexible solar cells lending themselves to mass production are promising options to fulfill these requirements.

Flexible Solar Cells is an intriguing new book describing such future paths of PVs. The literature is full of scholarly works on basic principles or physics of solar cells but seldom about the industrial dimension. *Flexible Solar Cells* makes a positive exception to mainstream literature by providing a timely and authoritative account on key science and technology aspects, manufacturing and industrial development of new PV technologies.

The book covers major new PV fields such as CIGS, a-Si, dye and organic solar cells, nanoantennas, quantum dots and other emerging technologies. It provides interesting views on applying nanotechnology in solar cells.

Flexible Solar Cells is meant for a broad readership ranging from science students, solar cell researchers and engineers to business people and laymen with an interest in clean energy. It starts with the basics of PVs, covers the different technology options, presents profound views on industrial issues and manufacturing, and finally deals with business and market opportunities. The good arts work along with a clear writing style makes the book easy to read and understand.

Flexible Solar Cells can be warmly recommended to everyone interested in solar electricity and its new developments. This is a necessary reading to understand how solar energy could grow from a marginal energy source today into a major global energy player in the future.

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