

“If we succeed in improving the efficiency of solar cells, all parties are sure to benefit.”

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Developing technology?

Let's do it together

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Levitech is one of the partners with whom ECN is continuously working to improve solar cell technology. Our combined knowledge of materials, equipment and technology come together in a single research line in Petten. Jaap Beijersbergen and Ernst Granneman, executives at Levitech, talk about this special cooperation. “If we succeed in improving the efficiency of solar cells, all parties are sure to benefit.”

“We started in 2009, as a spin-off of major player ASM International. It's great as a start-up to be able to collaborate with established parties. It lends our business a certain presence and provides opportunities for scaling up. We've been working together with ECN for about four years now. And with good reason: our choice for ECN was a deliberate one. ECN is the leader in the development of solar cells in the Netherlands, and is among the top 5 internationally.”

Detailed knowledge integrated into a single line

“About 20 steps are required in order to produce a solar cell. One of the steps is the layer Levitech applies to the wafer. This so-called passivation layer ensures an efficiency improvement of 0.5-1 %.

The system, called the Levitrack, has been installed at ECN and integrated into their research line. This offers many technical advantages, as we are able to fine tune our equipment throughout the entire production process. And our clients can see in practice how we integrate Atomic Layer Deposition into an existing line. We really benefit from our machines being embedded in this process.”

Collaboration as a business model

“ECN is able to create a complete module. That is not something we can do in-house. By setting up our machinery in Petten, we have entered into a long-term collaboration. For example, we are collaborating in many large EU projects to develop solar technology and we make joint presentations at international conferences. This makes Levitech’s technology more attractive and allows our employees to expand their expertise. You could say that the collaboration with ECN has become a part of our business model.”

Solar energy has an impact

“The social impact of our work can be significant, because our goal is to extract more nominal power from the sun. If we succeed in improving the efficiency of solar cells, all parties are sure to benefit. Particularly in recent years, the development of solar cell technology has sped up significantly. We have now reached the point that we can compete with oil and coal, and efficiency can be maximised even further. ECN promotes the development of new technology and can also contribute to the public debate with facts and figures.”

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Levitrack
Design by Levitech

