

PRESS RELEASE

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THIEME



This is a press release from THIEME GmbH & Co. KG of Teningen, Germany and from SCHILLER GMBH & CO. KG (Sonnenbühl, Germany) [press photos can be requested by sending an email to <mailto:ia@thieme-products.com> or may be downloaded at http://www.thieme-products.com/e/presse_public/]

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Production of solar cells with screen printing: Innovative machine concept at the photovoltaic trade fair

Teningen/Milan, July 2007 – For the first time THIEME is exhibiting a screen printing system for the production of solar cells which was developed jointly with the company Sieghard Schiller GmbH & Co. KG: the innovative printing system can be seen in action at the 150-square-metre THIEME stand at the European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference (EU PVSEC) at the beginning of September in Milan.

**THIEME at the 22nd
European Photovoltaic Solar
Energy Conference in
Mailand/Italien:
September 3 to 6, 2007,
Fiera Milano,
Hall 20, Stand 12**

The fully automatic machine allows the printing of silicon wafers with a high throughput and minimum breakage rate. An initial pilot system was already started up in July 2006 with an established US photovoltaic manufacturer and has since then fulfilled all of the expectations. In the meantime, further screen printing lines of the same type have been supplied and are proving their full capabilities under production conditions.

“The satisfaction of our customers is the best proof that this system concept fulfils all of the high demands of the market. For us it is now time to introduce this screen printing line concept internationally,” says Klaus Meßmer, Sales Director Industrial Printing Systems at Thieme. “Again we are showing clearly how versatile and capable our screen printing systems are.”

The screen printing machine is conceived as a fully automatic rotary system with four print nests. The complete printing and drying technology is from Thieme, while Schiller developed the handling and automation systems for the input and output of the wafers as well as the image evaluation systems for monitoring the print quality and the final good/bad sorting.

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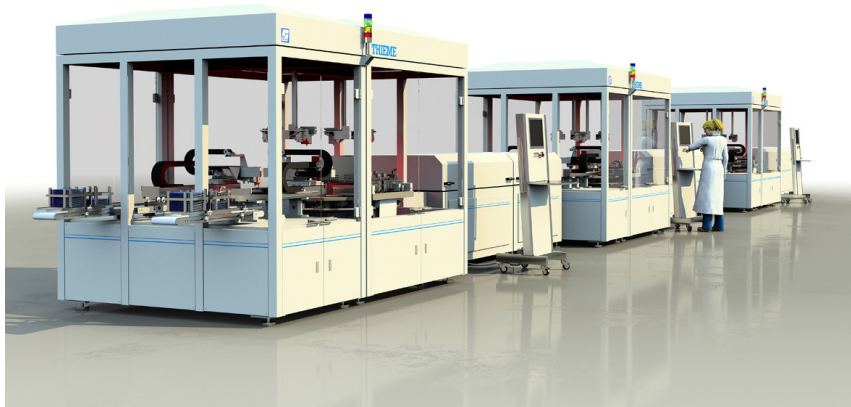


2000 wafer per hour

The print format of 210 mm x 330 mm was chosen so that two wafers with a length of up to 156 mm (optional: 150 mm or 125 mm) can be printed simultaneously. The gross throughput is 2000 wafers/hour.

Thieme will be showing the innovative printing system at the 22nd European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference in Milan/Italy and is thus represented for the first time at what is the world's largest specialised photovoltaic trade fair (Fiera Milan, Hall 20, Stand No. 12).

Press photo:



July 2007 – THIEME presents an innovative machine concept at the photovoltaic trade fair

The innovative system concept serves for the fully automatic printing of silicon wafers with a high throughput and minimum breakage rate. The system will be presented to an international audience for the first time at the EU PVSEC in Milan in September.

(Photo: THIEME GmbH & Co. KG of Teningen, Germany)

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About THIEME

The THIEME engineering works was founded in 1960 by Werner Thieme. In 1965, THIEME entered the plastics market. THIEME GmbH & Co. KG currently employs about 500 people around the world and achieved, in 2006, a consolidated total turnover of approximately 70 million euros. This year, THIEME expects an increase in sales of about 15%. The headquarters of THIEME is in Teningen, near Freiburg in South-West Germany. There are sales and service subsidiaries in France, Great Britain and the USA.

The business segments "Printing systems" and "Plastics technology" are the two pillars of the company. In both sectors, THIEME GmbH & Co. KG is the technological market leader. By means of continual development, this status is maintained and the position of the company in the relevant markets further strengthened.

www.thieme-products.com

About Schiller

Since its founding in 1978, Sieghard SCHILLER GmbH & Co. KG has established itself as one of the most competent automation companies worldwide. The headquarters of the company are located in Sonnenbuehl in the Swabian Alb. Service centres are located in Suzhou, China, and in Thalheim, Germany. In 2006, SCHILLER achieved a turnover of 29 millions euros and currently employs about 200 people.

The continually acquired know-how is used today in three market segments. SCHILLER is a leading provider of production and automation systems for the production of microelectronic products and components, crystalline solar cells in the field of cell manufacture and the complete factory automation for the production of thin-film solar cells.

www.schiller-automation.com

About the EU PVSEC

Over 3000 participants from research, industry, and politics are expected to attend the 22nd European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference (EU PVSEC) this year. At the parallel industrial trade fair, 450 exhibitors will be showing new ideas and technical solutions in the field of photovoltaics.

The EU PVSEC, which takes place every year in a different European country, is regarded as the largest event of its kind in the world. It is supported by the European Commission, UNESCO, the Italian government, the World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE), and the European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA).

www.photovoltaic-conference.com

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