

Thin Film Renewable Energy Center Open in Cleveland

EurotecUSA has announced the opening of a new facility in Cleveland, Ohio dedicated to thin film technology for renewable energy applications.

The center, called the Cleveland Thin Film Center, is in downtown Cleveland, near Case Western Reserve University.

CTFC is an advanced research and development facility established to investigate and prove new approaches to commercialization and automation of the production of thin films for solar cells, fuel cells, and advanced batteries.

The center provides the machinery and staff necessary to test new fabrication and manufacturing processes for renewable energy components and to scale them up. The services offered include materials selection and preparation, coating, drying, laminating, assembling and testing, using processes and machinery that will permit the highest levels of process and quality control.

Dr. Mark Daroux, Director of R&D, defined CTFC's goal saying, "At one extreme the end product of the R&D from the center will be the delivery to the customer of a turnkey pilot or even full production plant for producing renewable energy cell elements."

"This can be accomplished through commercial partners who are the industry-leading developers and manufacturers of coating and laminating machinery for renewable energy sources," added Dr. Daroux.

"In other cases, the center's users will take their results and prototypes away with them and develop their own systems in-house," he said.

This is the first center of its kind intended to remove a major roadblock to the commercialization of thin film renewable energy cells in the U.S. CTFC's services are available on a rental basis to companies involved in renewable energy cell development and commercialization.

It is staffed by scientists, engineers and technicians collaborating with educators and research personnel from the Electronics Design Center at Case.

Dr. Daroux concluded saying, "Renewable energy power sources have the potential to replace many of the petroleum based power technologies in use today. The benefits are well understood but before they can be delivered on any large scale, the production of the basic components must move out of the laboratory and onto the manufacturing floor. That is our ultimate goal."

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Dr. Mark Daroux, CTFC R&D Director, selects casting parameters for vertical simultaneous two-sided slot-die coating for thin film renewable energy cell elements using a new Coatema Verticoater 500.