



ENGINEERING A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE

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| Werner Coppys | Innovation and development |
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Belgian Antarctic research station, fully supplied by renewables; energy concept by 3E

Consultancy and Engineering in Renewable Energy

3E is an engineering company that provides services in applied research, system operation, project development, business development, and market and technology studies. 3E is specialized in energy efficiency, wind and hydro power, biomass utilization, thermal solar energy and photovoltaics. 3E was founded in 1999 as a spin-off from the solar cell activities at the Interuniversity Microelectronics Center (IMEC). Today the company groups about 40 staff members with extensive experience in renewables.

Organic Solar Cells Activities of 3E

3E is involved in organic solar cell R&D with its Renewable Energy Unit and with its Energy Strategy Unit. Amongst others, the Renewable Energy Unit offers consultancy in product development.

- A first domain is the autonomous power supply of small electric devices. Today this problem is mostly solved by means of small electromechanical generators or by inorganic photovoltaics. Some activities are already ongoing for the development of suited photovoltaic modules based on organic solar cells and in the future small autonomous power supply will be their first domain of commercial application. 3E is actively participating in bringing these developments to the market.
- A second domain of product development is the development and integration of photovoltaic building elements.

A major activity of 3E's Energy Strategy Unit are technology and market watch for industrial customers. For these customers 3E analyzes markets and the technological development of renewable energy technologies today and possible future developments, thus assisting industry to identify opportunities and take strategic R&D choices early. In photovoltaics, organic solar cells are an essential development ensuring cost reduction of the technology over the long term. Hence, they are probably a large element of the renewable energy supply puzzle of the future. As such organic solar cells are a main object of 3E's activities in policy and market watch.

3E leads the working group for Socio-economic and policy issues in the OrgaPVnet co-ordination action.