

# Flexible Thin-Film Solar Cell Technology and Market Forecast (2006~2015)

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### Abstracts

Photovoltaic business has rapidly been increased until first half of 2008 and each country has started to foster PV business as the next-generation growth industry. However, PV market has become highly competitive because of plunge in module price caused by global economic recession. Solar cell.module makers face the challenges for improving product efficiency and reducing manufacturing cost.

As manufacturing cost and need for various products come to the fore, researches on flexible solar cell are currently conducted. Most of already commercialized solar cells can be broken or changed its shape with some forces because it is produced on the solid substrate such as wafer or glass. However, flexible solar cell that now captures attentions as the next-generation solar cell can be bent as you please. Therefore, flexible solar cell is light, portable and able to be modified easily because thin-film features are used for flexibility.

If the flexible substrate is produced with the strengths of flexible solar cell and the technology for flexible substrate is optimized, flexible solar cells compete with already commercialized solar cells and those are used for various purposes.

Flexible a-Si solar cell market has been led by Uni-Solar until 2009 and its market has grown with new CIGS and other flexible solar cell manufacturers. It is expected that the CIGS and other flexible solar cell makers adopt advanced technology and increase in production from 2011, led by current a-Si solar cell maker, showing annual 52.2% growth rate during 2011~2015. The production is expected to be increased to 343.2MW in 2011 and up to 1,732.2MW in 2015.

In case of CIGS solar cell, most makers have entered to mass-production stage. Even



though they produce in small-scale, the CIGS market share has grown up to 31.7%, increasing about 30% compare with previous year. Typically, Global Solar(Metal Foil), MiaSole(Metal Foil), Odersun(Metal Foil) and Ascent Solar(Plastic) produce in small-scale. DY metal (Metal Foil) of Korea stocks the equipment in the beginning of 2011 and is scheduled to start mass-production from the second half of this year. In particular, many manufacturers enter flexible CIGS solar cell market because of high potential of high efficiency solar cell as much as CIGS solar cell with glass substrate and in the future, other many manufacturers are expected to enter into this area.

# This report will provide followings about flexible solar cell technology and market forecast.

The elements and characteristics of flexible solar cell substrate/technology

The current state of technologies and development by each flexible solar cells

The current state of research and commercialization by domestic/foreign solar cell manufacturers

Flexible Solar cell Market Forecast



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