

# European Becquerel Prize for Outstanding Merits in Photovoltaics

To mark the 150th anniversary of Alexandre-Edmond Becquerel's discovery of the photovoltaic effect in 1839, the European Commission founded in 1989 the European Becquerel Prize for outstanding contributions to the development of Photovoltaic Solar Energy. It is awarded for the fourteenth time in 2006 on the occasion of the 21<sup>st</sup> European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference in Dresden. The Prize winner was selected by the prominent members of the World Photovoltaic Community and confirmed by the Becquerel Prize Committee.

## Dr. Richard M. Swanson

is the fourteenth Becquerel Prize winner. He receives the Becquerel Award for his ground-breaking work on high-efficiency silicon solar cells. The fact that the leading European Prize for merits in Photovoltaic Development goes this time to an American is also meant as an expression of friendship between both PV Communities.

Dr. Swanson developed record-setting silicon solar cells, first during his long career at Stanford University and later at the company SunPower of which he is the founder and President. His group at Stanford achieved 23 % efficiency on large area silicon cells and 28 % under concentration. Dr. Swanson's industrial cells powered the winning car of the 1993 Solar Challenge and NASA's unique high-altitude solar-powered airplane. His recent success is the establishment of a company which produces the highest efficient commercial PV modules. Furthermore Dr. Swanson published more than 150 articles. He combines in an exemplary way outstanding science and industrial leadership.

With this Prize, the Commission expresses its recognition to Dr. Swanson for his extraordinary achievements in the field of PV solar Electricity.

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