

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 thirty-first time in 2023 on the occasion of the 40th European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference in Lisbon. After a public nomination phase, the Prize winner was selected by the Becquerel Prize Committee.



Gunter Erfurt



is the thirty-first Becquerel Prize winner. He receives the award for his engagement in re-establishing advanced manufacturing of silicon solar cells and modules in Europe.

Gunter Erfurt has led the transformation of his company from an equipment supplier to a main European producer of solar cells and modules, ramping up highly automatized proprietary manufacturing solutions for silicon heterojunction technology with smart-wire contacting, all this under the constraint of the COVID crisis. He has been a tireless advocate for a renaissance of PV production in Europe, giving numerous talks in conferences, taking part in debates, and contributing in the media. He also regularly represented the industry in many meetings with the institutions in Europe where he became truly the "face" and "voice" for more local manufacturing. Through his actions, positions, and leadership, Dr. Erfurt is an outstanding individual in the community.

Salla Saastamoinen

Deputy Director General

European Commission Joint Research Centre

Prof. Christophe Ballif

Chairman of the

Becquerel Prize Committee