

NETWORK for ENERGY SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

Prof. Maurizio Cellura



CHI SIAMO

Le energie rinnovabili al centro



- NEST è l'unico progetto sull'energia finanziato nell'ambito del PNRR dal Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca
- È un **partenariato esteso** pubblico/privato che mette insieme **24 partner**:
12 Università, 4 centri di ricerca ed 8 imprese su tutto il territorio nazionale (**soggetto capofila: Politecnico di Bari**)



expri^{via}

idea75

INTESA  SANPAOLO



ireⁿ



eurac
research



iit ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI TECNOLOGIA



Arco FC



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



NuovoPignone



ENEA



CHI SIAMO

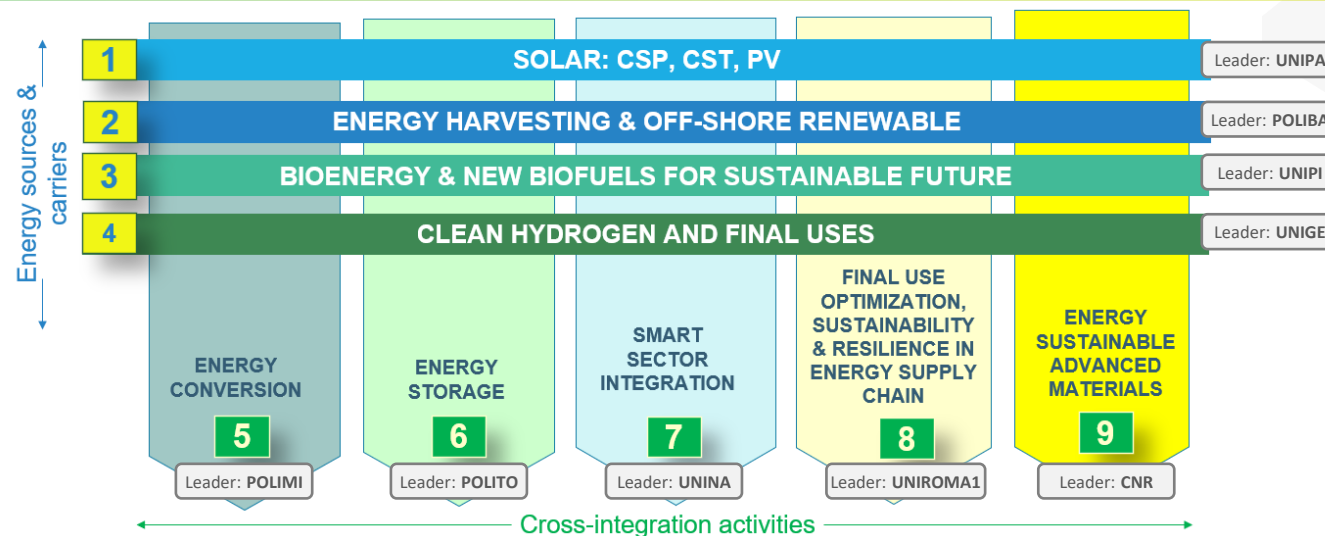
Le 9 linee di progetto

i 9

Spoke di NEST

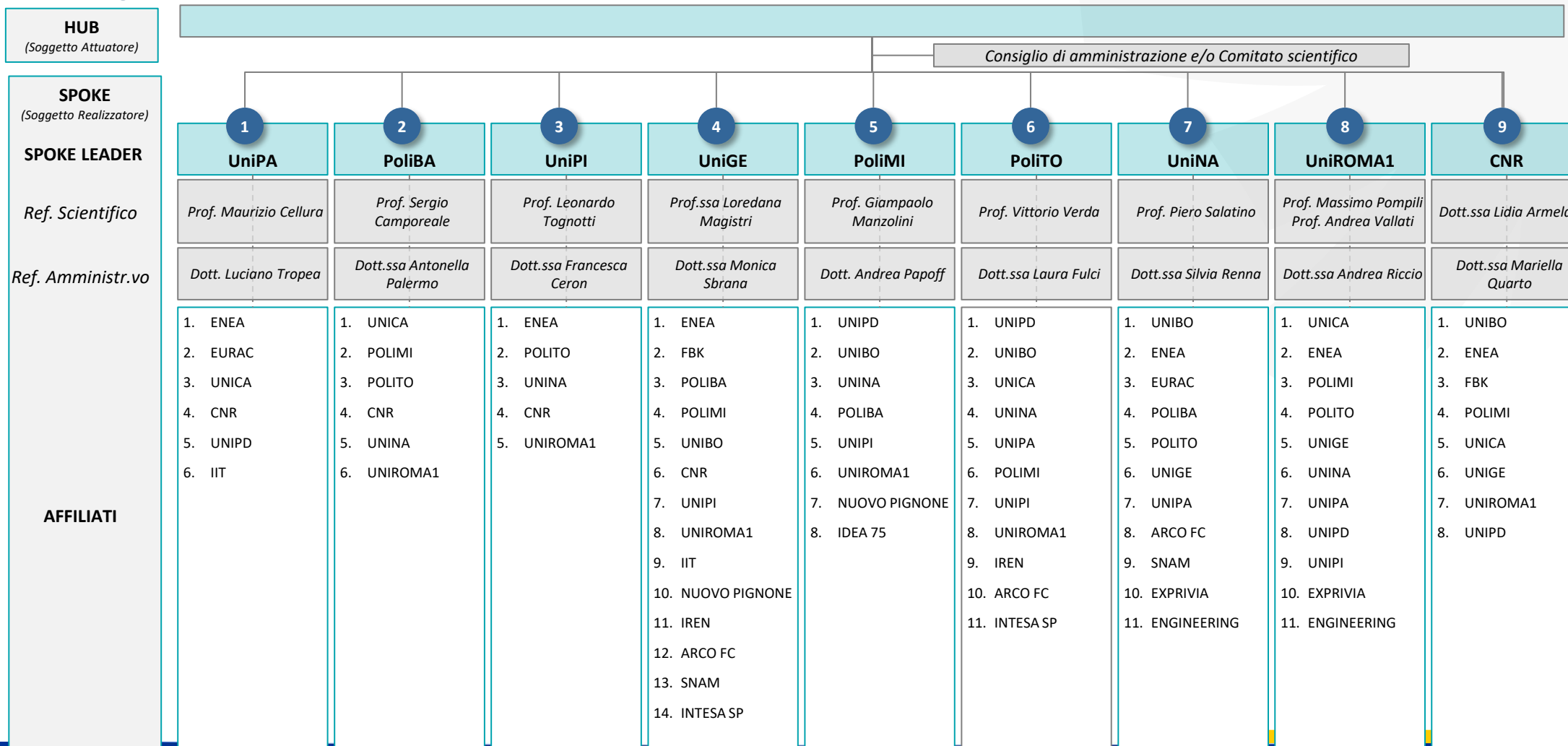
Le migliori energie per la transizione energetica italiana.

Gli "spoke" conducono ricerche specializzate in ambiti specifici. Sono composti da più partner pubblici e privati distribuiti sul territorio nazionale. Facendo leva su competenze interdisciplinari, generano nuova conoscenza e sviluppano tecnologie e processi innovativi per la conversione e l'utilizzo delle fonti energetiche rinnovabili e sostenibili.



Fondazione NEST

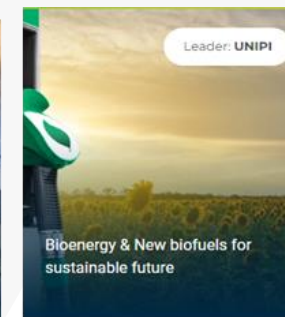
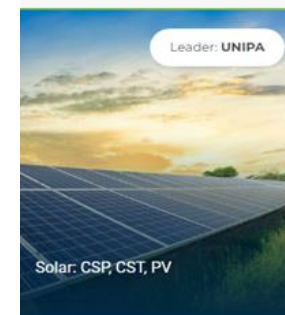
Composizione del Partenariato



GLI OBIETTIVI

Cosa vogliamo raggiungere

- Sviluppare, attraverso la ricerca scientifica, **nuove tecnologie** per la produzione di energie pulite
- Favorire la capacità di tradurre il contenuto delle ricerche in nuove opportunità imprenditoriali quali **startup e spin-off**
- Promuovere l'innovazione all'interno delle imprese attraverso azioni di **trasferimento tecnologico ed open innovation**



GLI OBIETTIVI

Alcuni esempi...

GESTIONE E RICERCA

118 mln €
Budget di Progetto

42%
Quota SUD

55
Dottorandi da reclutare

100
Ricercatori da reclutare

150/anno
Articoli scientifici

INNOVAZIONE E TRASFERIMENTO TECNOLOGICO, SUPPORTO A STARTUP E SPINOFF

10
PhD reclutati da partner industriali

4/anno
Mentoring per startup e spinoff

ACCELERAZIONE DEI PROGETTI DI INNOVAZIONE, DISSEMINAZIONE

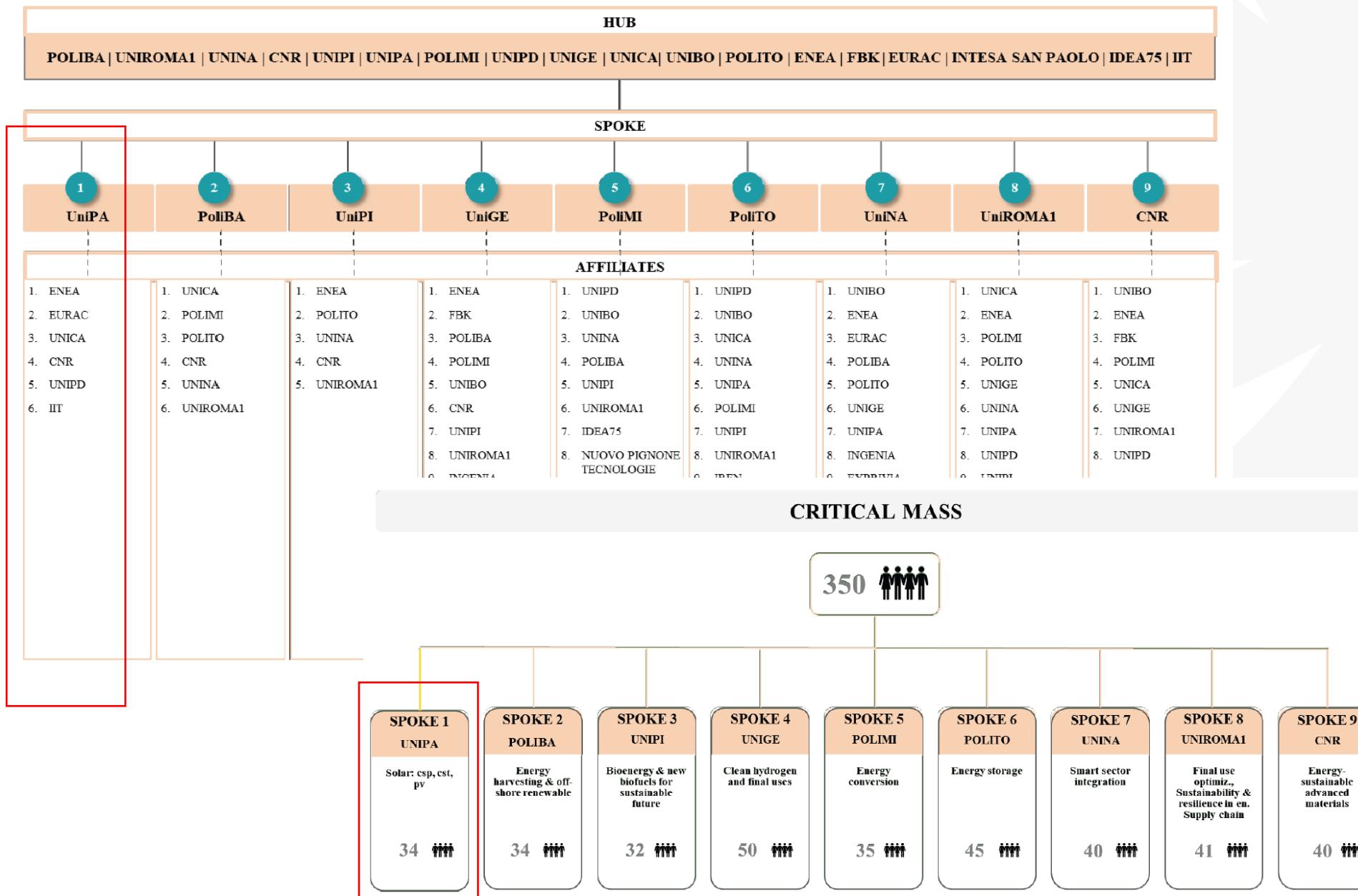
5
Laboratori congiunti infrastrutture di ricerca

4/Spoke
Prodotti/processi con TRL aumentato

3/anno
Eventi realizzati

L'OPPORTUNITA' I CONTENUTI, le ESPERIENZE ed il MODELLO del PNRR come "rampa di lancio" per la transizione energetica





SPOKE 1: SOLAR: PV, CSP & CST

Spoke 1 will focus on topics useful to boost the **PV and CSP/CTS sectors** toward higher amount of renewable energy production at competitive costs, overtaking the actual limits and introducing innovation at low Technology Readiness Level.

The project promotes a considerable **pipeline of new and advanced versions of existing technologies** unlocking the obstacles from lab to fab production, enabling robust continued **performance increase**, developing **new applications** and facilitating further **cost reduction**, improving the **ecoprofiles of materials**, technologies and systems within the PV, CSP and CST fields, by supporting local companies to develop and sell differentiated and high value products helpful to create **competitive development and local jobs**.

The general framework of the activities is characterized by cross-cutting issues applying a sustainable horizontal integration between different topics and an eco-design approach for decarbonizing materials, systems and technologies.

WP 1.0 Spoke1 Coordination (UNIPA)

WP 1.1 Technologies for innovative high performance solar cells and PV module (ENEA)

WP 1.2 Innovative solar cell architectures for high conversion efficiency(CNR/UNICA)

WP 1.3 Advanced technologies and solution for BIPV and BAPV (EURAC)

WP 1.4. New concept for CSP/CST systems (UNIPA/ENEA)

WP 1.5 Structural components and subsystems for high-efficiency solar systems (UNIPA/EURAC)

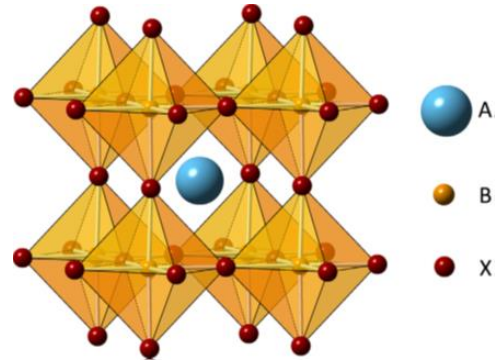
WP 1.6 Eco-design of materials, systems, and technologies (UNIPA)

WP 1.7 Dissemination and Communications (UNIPA/ENEA)

Le Celle Solari a Perovskite

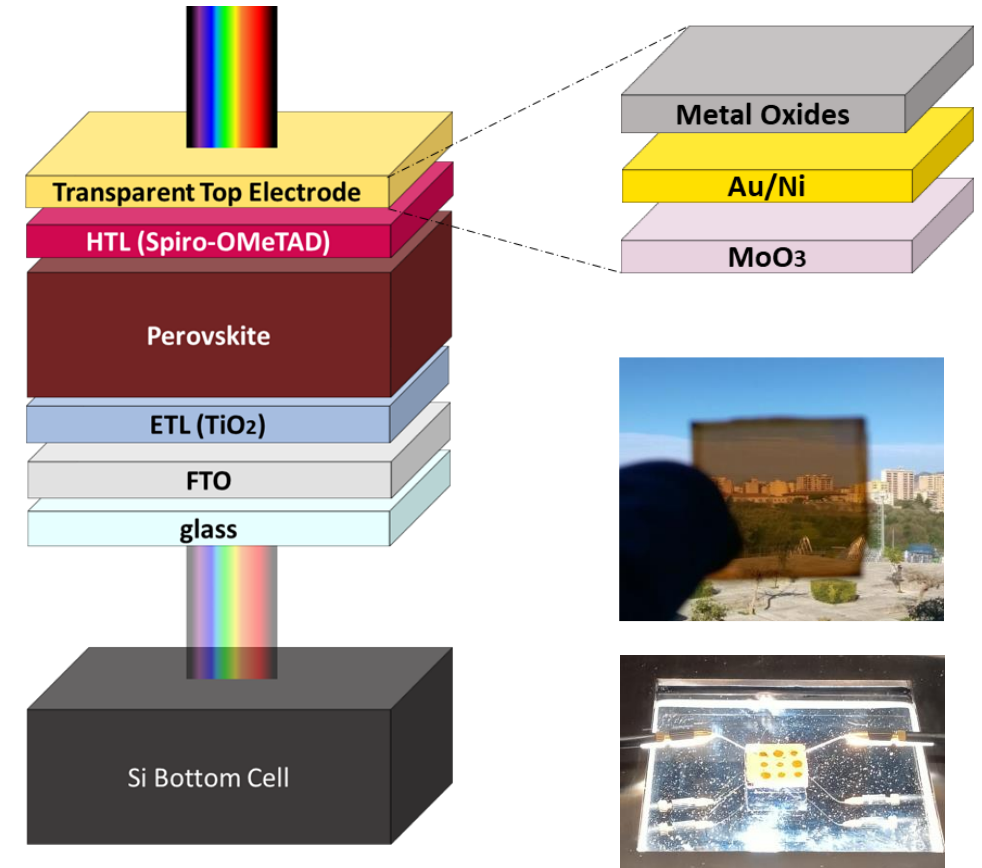
Vittorio Ferrara e Anna Fricano - Dipartimento di Fisica e Chimica

- Le celle solari a perovskite come dispositivi a costo ridotto, elevata versatilità, e semi-trasparenti.



Struttura Cristallina Perovskite

- Ottimizzazione di **efficienza e trasparenza** per ogni componente della cella, es. elettrodi semi-trasparenti.
- Combinazione con dispositivi al silicio in configurazione **tandem**.

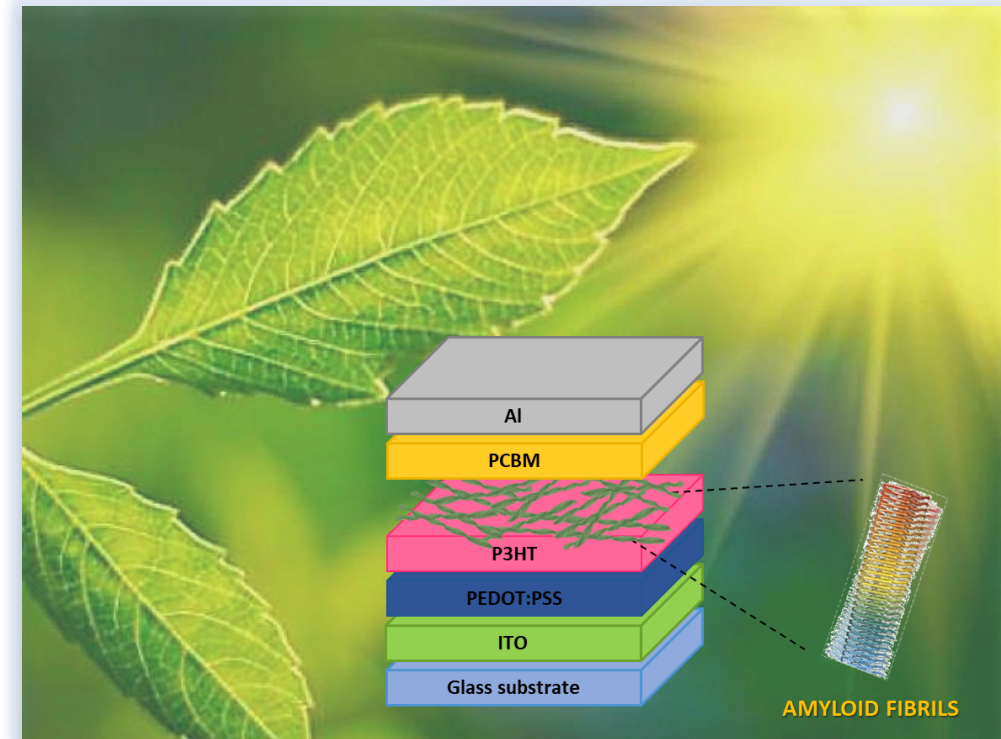
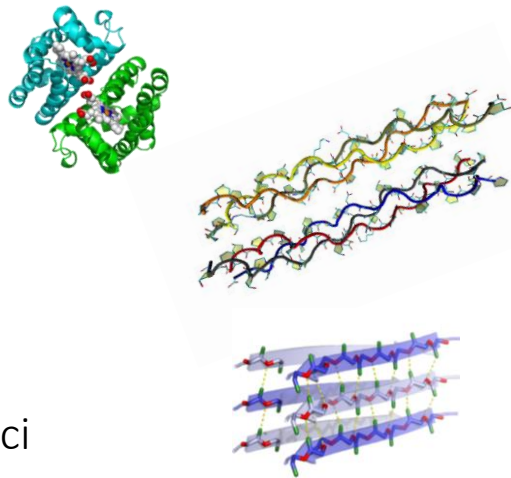


Cella Solare a Perovskite dotata di elettrodo semi-trasparente multistrato

Imitando la natura: integrazione di biomolecole in dispositivi solari organici

- Materiali naturali per **celle solari sostenibili**:

- ✓ Proteine
- ✓ Biomolecole
- ✓ Fibrille amiloidi
- ✓ Coloranti organici



- Aumentare l'efficienza delle celle solari organiche polimeriche.
- Ridurre l'impatto ambientale

Prospettive Future

Celle a Perovskite

- Innovazione di **materiali** e **interfacce** di celle solari semi-trasparenti a perovskite per migliorare aspetti quali efficienza, trasparenza e eco-prestazioni a TRL basso.
- Combinare celle solari semi-trasparenti a perovskite e celle al silicio in **configurazione tandem**.

Celle Organiche

- Ottimizzazione delle prestazioni di celle solari a base **polimerica** per migliorare aspetti quali efficienza, trasparenza e durata introducendo **additivi di natura biologica**.
- Aumentare la durata tramite **incapsulamento in polimeri polisilossanici**.
- Applicazioni in **serre** e per **retine artificiali** tramite in design di celle polimeriche **spetttralmente selettive**.

Perovskite solar cells

Salvatore Ferrugia Bonura - Dipartimento di Fisica e Chimica

Research objective: detection and quantification of aging effect (degradation) in MAPbI₃ (MAPI) perovskite solar cells (PSC) by Raman spectroscopy.

The characterization activity of perovskite solar cells is being developed inside the **Network for Energy Sustainable Technologies** (NEST) Project, Spoke 1, Work Package 1.1, Task 1.1.2

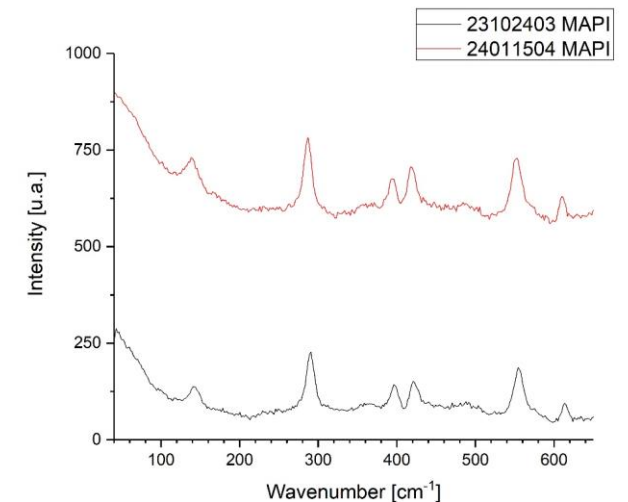
Research methodology: measurements were performed by the Horiba Raman spectrometer at the Raman Laboratory of the Advanced Technologies Network (ATeN) Center of the Università di Palermo.

Obtained results:

Aging of MAPI perovskite solar cells is related to the evidence of Raman peaks at 70, 95, 110, 160, 220 cm⁻¹ in their Raman spectra.

The side picture, reporting Raman spectra for the same cell acquired at the beginning of the research (black line) and about three months after (red line), doesn't show any appreciable peak variations in the tested sample, stored at T = 20 °C in air without intense light exposure.

Cell aging don't take place in some month times, in unstressing conditions.



Future activities: aging tests of MAPI cells and characterization of Ase (Sb₂Se₃) cells by Raman and photoluminescence spectroscopy.

Caratterizzazione di materiali innovativi per applicazioni fotovoltaiche

Simone Barbarossa - Dipartimento di Fisica e Chimica

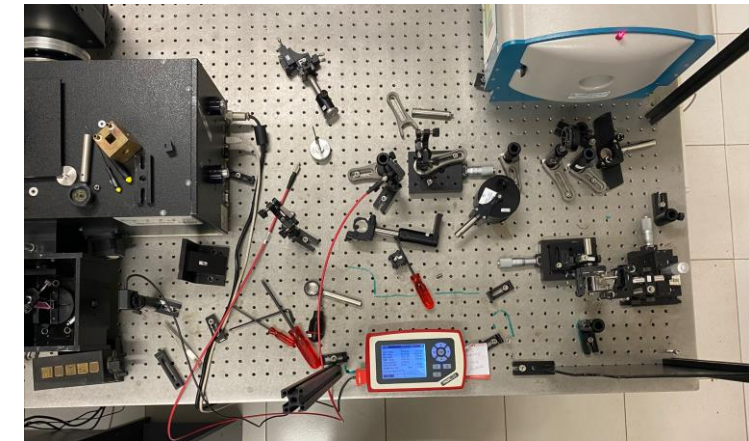
Obiettivo: Studiare le caratteristiche di materiali e celle solari innovative, prodotte all'interno del Progetto NEST, con tecniche di tipo spettroscopico, analizzando la risposta del materiale all'interazione con la radiazione luminosa.

Tecniche

Spettroscopia Raman

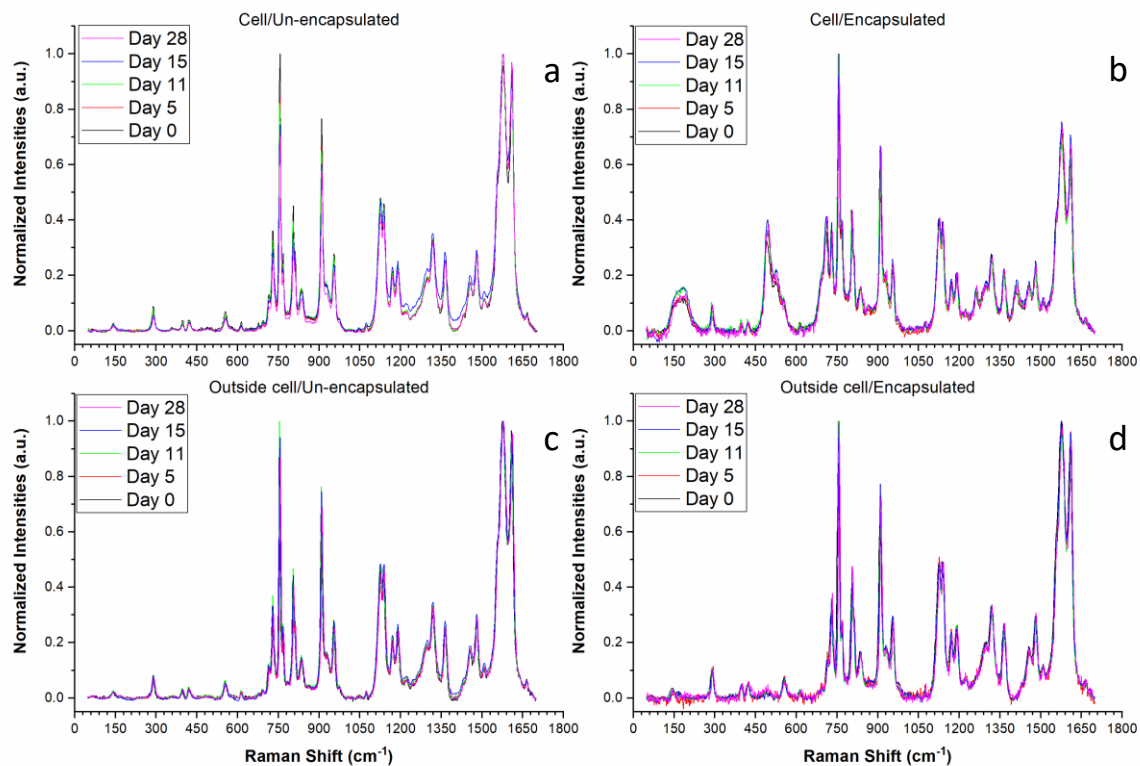


Foto-Luminescenza Risolta in Tempo (TR-PL)



Risultati

Primi test di invecchiamento su prototipi di celle solari a perovskite, analizzate tramite spettroscopia Raman per l'identificazione di prodotti di degradazione del materiale perovskite.



Prospettive

Test di invecchiamento di celle a perovskite tramite trattamenti termici e di fotodegradazione.

Misure Raman su materiali innovative a perovskite senza Piombo

Studio di invecchiamento di celle fotovoltaiche basate su Sb₂Se₃, tramite misure Raman e di fotoluminescenza risolta in tempo.

NEST WP 1.5 – Task 1.5.4

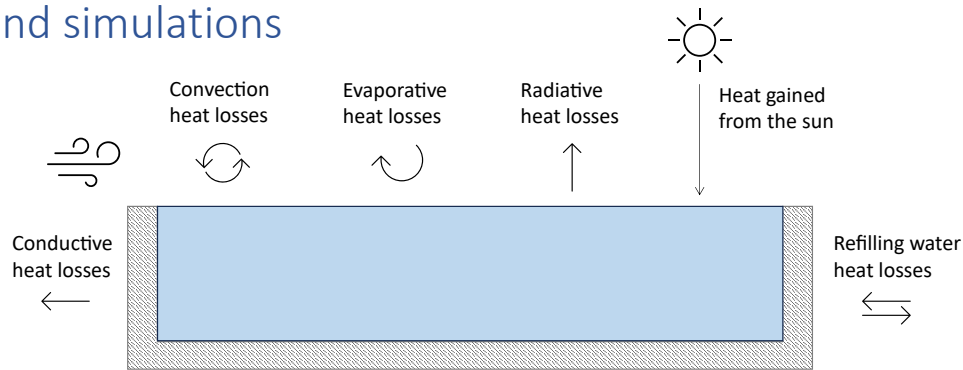
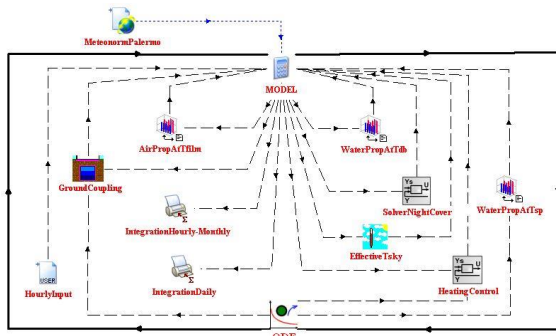
Analysis of the impact of thermal energy storage solutions coupled with PV&CSP plants in power grids

Alessandro Biondi – Dipartimento di Ingegneria

Mathematical Model of coupling Solar Energy with energy demands of a public swimming pool.

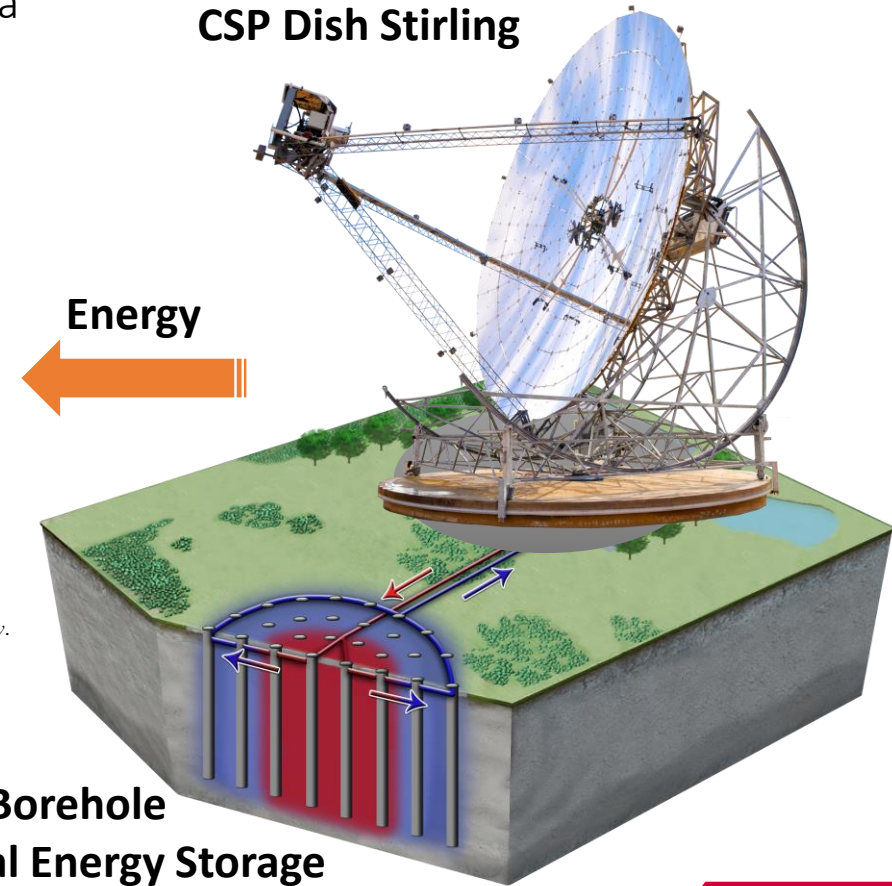
Our research explores an innovative approach that couples Solar energy output from a Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) dish Stirling system with the energy demands of a public Olympic swimming pool in Palermo, Italy, which is accessible to university students.

TRNSYS Mathematical Model and simulations



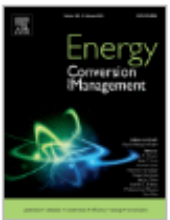
$$V_{pool} \cdot \rho_w \cdot c_{p,water} \cdot \frac{dT_w}{dt} = \dot{Q}_{heating} + \dot{Q}_{sol} - \dot{Q}_{evap} - \dot{Q}_{conv} - \dot{Q}_{rad} - \dot{Q}_{cond} - \dot{Q}_{f.w.}$$

CSP Dish Stirling



BTES - Borehole Thermal Energy Storage

Dissemination:



An innovative energy balance model that accurately predicts energy consumption, published in the prestigious Energy Conversion and Management journal.

NEST WP 1.5 – WP 1.5 – Task 1.5.5

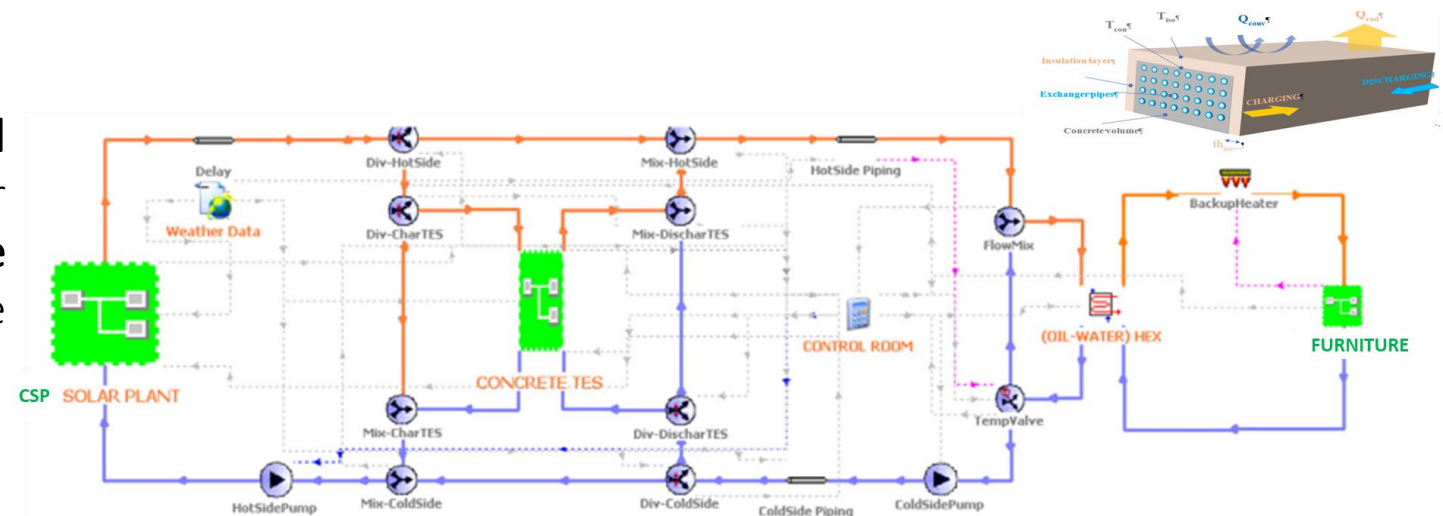
Artificial neural network for production forecasting of dish Stirling CSP system.

The stochastic nature of solar energy, which is highly dependent on environmental conditions, along with the imperative need for dispatchable power generation plants pose a significant challenge in terms of predicting their energy output. Accurate energy production forecasting is crucial for grid management, reducing energy storage costs, and ensuring a stable energy supply.

Our research investigates the application of **machine learning techniques** and **artificial neural networks** for the parametric analysis and optimization of data from the dish Stirling plant at the University of Palermo, which has provided a dataset comprising 14,256,000 discrete records.

Task1.4.6 – Modeling of thermal storage systems based on concrete media or novel thermocline concepts.

The aim of the research is to create a **numerical model** capable of simulating the dynamic behavior of a **sensible heat storage system utilizing concrete as the medium**. This numerical model will facilitate optimization analyses for such systems.



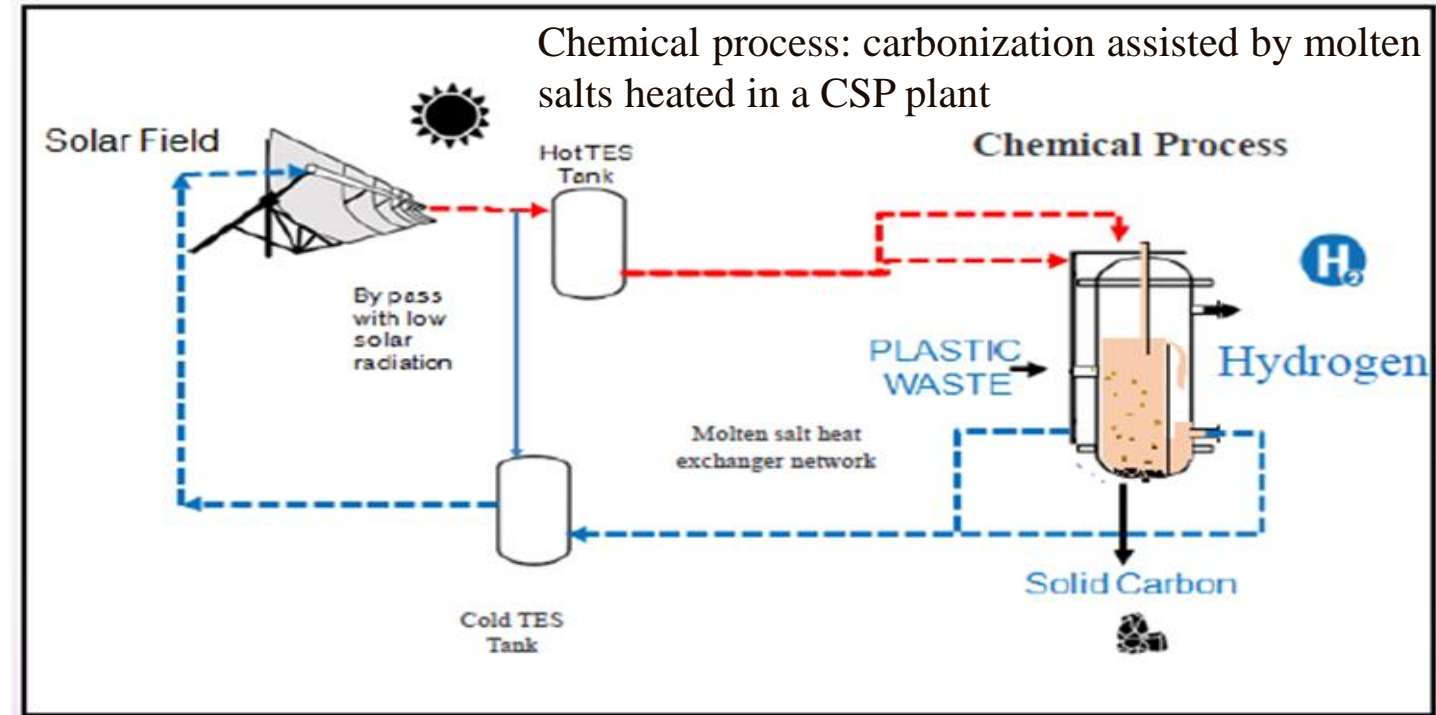
Investigation of the utilization of Zn based heat transfer fluids for the Thermo-catalytic conversion of plastic waste materials

Najwa Hamdi

Dipartimento di Ingegneria, Università degli Studi di Palermo, Viale delle Scienze, Ed. 6,90128, Palermo, Italy

Aim

- The integration of a concentrating solar power (CSP) plant with a chemical process, using molten salts as a source of enthalpy, can be a new appealing route to achieve negative CO₂ emissions and a circular carbon economy with plastic waste.
- The research aims to study the use of a ZnCl₂ based heat transfer fluid (HTF) as process medium for the chemical recycle of plastic waste.



Toward negative CO₂ emissions and circular carbon economy using solar heat

Methods

Experiments were carried out by mixing the eutectic mixture (ZnCl₂/KCl/NaCl) chosen as catalyst under an argon atmosphere with several polymers such as high density polyethylene (HDPE), Styrene Butadiene Rubber (SBR) and Isotactic polypropylene (IPP) chosen as feedstock at a temperature of 400°C with a reaction time of 4h without stirring using an AISI 316 autoclave batch reactor.

Results

➤ Experiments conducted under these conditions after 4h as reaction time revealed a higher gas yield of **7.01%** Hydrogen yield at **2.42%**, and dehydrogenation index of **5.89%** obtained by SBR compared to HDPE and IPP.

Polymer Type	Gas Yield (%)	Hydrogen Yield (%)	Dehydrogenation Index (%)
HDPE	3.36	0.958	5.37
SBR	7.01	2.423	5.89
IPP	2.67	1.75	5.07

➤ This work shows that molten ZnCl₂-based heat transfer fluids can activate the carbonization of several polymers without any pretreatment.

Next step

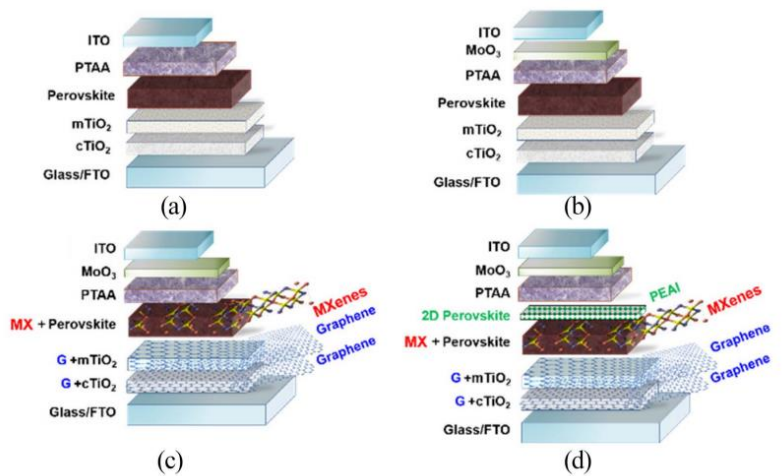
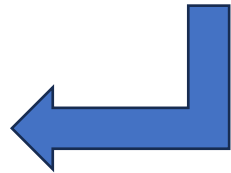
Additional efforts are required to study the effect of operating parameters on the yield and quality of the products

WP 1.6 Eco-design of materials, systems, and technologies (UNIPA)

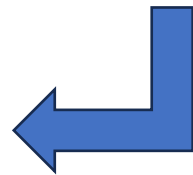
Objectives: Reduction of pollutants in the design phase in PV and CSP/CST systems. Estimation of environmental performances of the systems and technologies through a life cycle thinking approach. Lead the design towards an eco-improvement.

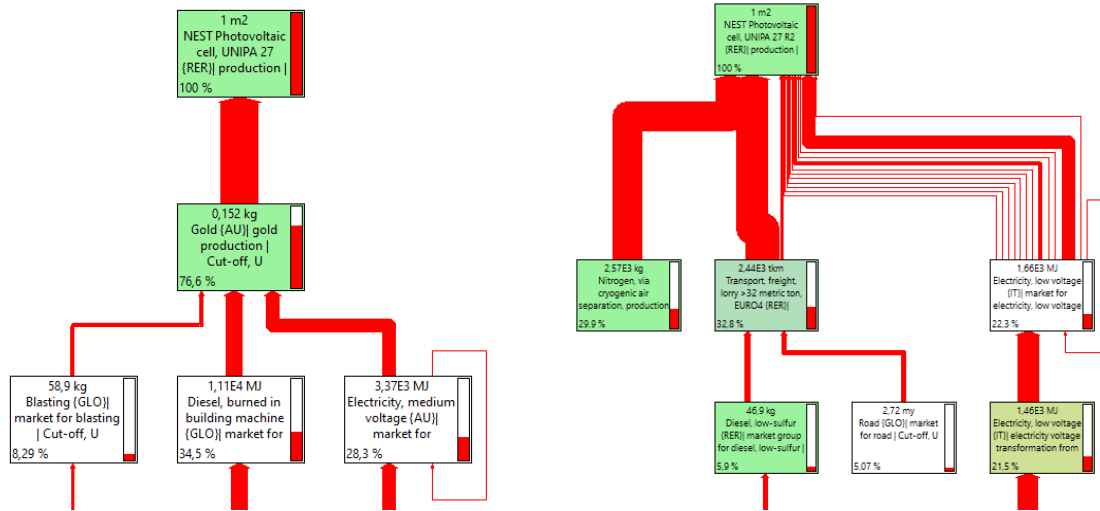
Method: Life cycle assessment methodology and eco-design approach

Cells in the chamber (full of nitrogen for inert and dust free environment)



Cells in the chamber after 10 days and a cell in the environment after 1 day (without encapsulation)





Heat transfer fluids	Carbon footprint (kgCO2eq per kg)
Solar salts	8.10E-01
Hitec salts	1.02E+00

Conclusion:

- The carbon footprint of the studied products/ technologies seems to be lower than the conventional ones
- Other environmental impacts such as material consumption, toxicity, water use, and etc should be considered.
- The need of selecting new materials for further improving environmental profiles of the solar cells and solar technologies



Hotspot lies in manufacturing stage

Energy 2023, 15(10), 14639

Customize data available at ScienceDirect

Energy

Journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/energy

Integrated hybrid multi-regional input-output for assessing life cycle air emissions of the Italian power generation

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Received 7 September 2023; Received in revised form 10 October 2023; Accepted 20 October 2023

Available online 25 October 2023

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Science of the Total Environment 898 (2024) 168859

Science of the Total Environment

Journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/scototenv

Review

A review on life cycle environmental impacts of emerging solar cells

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^a Department of Engineering, University of Palermo, Viale delle Scienze 612, 90132 Palermo, Italy

HIGHLIGHTS

- Custom indicators include energy, greenhouse gas, water, acid, and toxicity.
- Manufacturing process is the hotspot for environmental and emerging solar cells.
- LCA method and production scales create large impact on environmental results.
- An insight is crucial to solar cell development to minimize environmental impacts.

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 7 September 2023; Received in revised form 10 October 2023; Accepted 20 October 2023

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Published papers



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