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Physics, Simulation, and Photonic Engineering of Photovoltaic Devices II

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Introduction

After a year full of uncertainties and hard times in industry and in all domains, photovoltaics are very much alive. This is manifested not only by the continuing expansion of the technology (100 GW installed were reached pretty much as the symposium took place), the unprecedented cost reduction of the technology, but also by the thriving scientific and technological developments.

The second edition of the symposium "Physics, Simulation, and Photonic Engineering of Photovoltaic Devices" brought together experts in physics, optics, and photovoltaics and was a place where such developments could be witnessed.

With more than 60 oral presentations and 15 posters, the symposium has been growing since its first edition in 2012. We beheld excellent presentations in topics related to applications of nanophotonics to photovoltaics, material issues with polycrystalline materials, modeling and new device concepts. This is further evidenced in this volume.

As a further example of the vitality of the field, the Green Photonics Award of Photonics West went to C. Colin et al. (LPN, France) for their achievements in advanced light trapping for ultrathin CIGS solar cells.

The sad news is that of the untimely passing of Manuel Romero, initially invited in this symposium to present advances in characterization of thin film solar cells, a few months before the conference. He would have met a thriving scientific symposium, rich in talented young scientists.

Alexandre Freundlich
Jean-François Guillemoles