

Are solar cells a viable alternative to traditional polysilicon processes?

In the middle of the last decade hundreds of projects were announced to expand production capacity (both through debottlenecking, brown field projects and green field projects) as well as to develop new low energy, low cost processes more suitable for solar cells than the traditional and proprietary high cost, hyper purity polysilicon processes.

What is polysilicon?

"Polysilicon" is a commonly used term which we will use in this article to refer to any chemical purification process and product going through synthesis and purification of a silicon bearing volatile compound and its decomposition to elementary silicon for the purpose of making semiconductors or solar cells.

What technology is used to make polysilicon?

There are three main technologies to produce polysilicon. The 'modified Siemens process' is currently the dominant technology in China. Trichlorosilane (TCS) is produced using two readily available metallurgical-grade silicon (of 95-99% purity) and liquid chlorine.

Is upgraded metallurgical grade silicon a viable alternative to standard polysilicon?

Upgraded metallurgical grade silicon (UMG Si) has already demonstrated to be a viable alternative to standard polysilicon in terms of cost and quality. This study presents the life cycle assessment (LCA) of UMG obtained by the FerroSolar process.

How has the polysilicon industry evolved over the last 10 years?

For those actively participating in the polysilicon industry over the last 10 years, it must have been a fascinating journey. The industry developed from being an arena for a few especially interested participants; through an exponential growth and the entry of a multitude of new hopeful participants using traditional technology.

Is polysilicon a development project?

However, it is the subject of numerous development projects within both incumbent and new producers of polysilicon. FBRs are used in many industrial processes, for instance for gasoline production and coal gasification.

The riddle's solution: The quote originates from a paper presented by Carl Yaws of the Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas at the U.S. "Flat-Plate Solar Array Project Workshop on Low-Cost Polysilicon for Terrestrial Photovoltaic Solar-Cell Applications" in Las Vegas, Nevada in October 1985. Yaws listed no less than 17 manufacturing alternatives to the standard Siemens process.

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New cell metallization patterns for heterojunction solar cells interconnected by the smart wire connection technology. Energy Procedia 67, 203-209 (2015). Article CAS Google Scholar

Among these advancements, polysilicon (poly-Si) passivated junctions, formed by embedding a thin silicon oxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>) layer between the c-Si wafer and a highly doped poly-Si layer, are emerging as one of the most promising alternatives, and efficiencies above 26% have already been demonstrated.

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There are a number of recent developments that have the potential to greatly enhance the efficiencies of commercially available thin-film c-Si solar cells, including passivating contact featuring stacks of polysilicon (poly-Si)/SiO<sub>x</sub>, commonly abbreviated as TOPCon (tunnel oxide passivated contacts), which has led to efficiencies of over 26% ...

Silicon solar cells that employ passivating contacts featuring a heavily doped polysilicon layer on a thin silicon oxide (TOPCon) have been demonstrated to facilitate remarkably high cell efficiencies, amongst the ...

Doped polysilicon (poly-Si) passivating contacts have emerged as a key technology for the next generation of silicon solar cells in mass production, owing to their excellent performance and high compatibility with the existing passivated emitter and rear cell technology.

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This study provides an overview of the current state of silicon-based photovoltaic technology, the direction of further development and some market trends to help interested stakeholders make decisions about investing in PV technologies, and it can be an excellent incentive for young scientists interested in this field to find a narrower field ...

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New processes have been developed, the most notable being the use of fluidized bed reactors/FBR in polysilicon deposition and the replacement of chemical ...

Key scarce materials of concern include silver, indium, and bismuth where silver is common to all mainstream industrial silicon solar cell technologies, while indium and bismuth can be introduced with changes in solar cell technology such as silicon heterojunctions and future tandems, tellurium for thin film, and gallium when used as a key element in the solar absorber ...

Researchers and companies are developing other technologies, but polysilicon panels, which were created at Bell Labs in 1954, remain "the backbone of the silicon solar cell," said Yogi Goswami ...

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