

About the speakers



Dr. Mario El-Khoury (in Switzerland)

« CSEM is proud to present this great invention which will change the way solar technology is used in buildings. It becomes a fully-fledged construction material with the potential for architects to realize beautiful solar solutions. There are no limits! »

Mario El-Khoury, CEO of CSEM holds a doctorate in automatic control from EPFL and an MBA obtained in 2000 from the HEC, University of Lausanne. He has spent most of his career in applied research in the industrial field, and joined CSEM in 1994 as head of section of Industrial Control. He took over the Systems Engineering division in 2003, and was promoted Chief Executive Officer in November 2009. He has distinguished himself as a pioneer by introducing breakthrough approaches in many application fields like smart textiles for sport and consumer markets and intelligent home and building automation.



Prof. Christophe Ballif (in Singapore)

« How to make people, architects, love solar panels? How to develop solutions that can be widespread and made available not only for demonstration projects but for millions of buildings? These are some of the dreams which we hope to become true with our innovations. »

Prof Christophe Ballif is VP of Swiss CSEM Photovoltaics Division, as well as full professor at EPFL and Head of the Chair of the Photovoltaics and Thin Film Electronics Laboratory (PV-Lab). Christophe Ballif graduated as a physicist from the EPFL in 1994, where he also obtained in 1998 his PhD degree working on novel PV materials. After his postdoctoral research at NREL (Golden, US), Fraunhofer ISE (Germany) on crystalline silicon and the EMPA (CH), he became full professor at the University of Neuchâtel IMT in 2004. Since 2013, Christophe Ballif is also the director of the new CSEM PV-center, also located in Neuchâtel. The CSEM PV-center is focussing more on industrialisation and technology transfer in the field of solar energy.



Dr. Laure-Emmanuelle Perret-Aebi (in Switzerland)

« Our technology is a revolution: it allows the solar panel to become a building material of its own. With this new technology, everyone can choose to have solar panels in virtually any color they wish, including white, with no visible cells and connectors. »

Before joining CSEM's PV-center as Sector Head Modules and Systems in 2013, Dr. Laure-Emmanuelle Perret-Aebi worked as Group Leader at the Institute of Microengineering, Photovoltaics and Thin Film Electronics Laboratory of EPFL. She holds a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Fribourg and has worked as post-doctoral research assistant at the Institute of Physics and the Institute of Microtechnology, University of Neuchâtel, as well as at the Institute of Chemistry, University of Edinburgh, Scotland and the Institute of Chemistry, University of Fribourg, Switzerland.



Raphael Domjan (in Singapore)

« We have the technologies, the raw materials and the renewable energies to make the paradigm shift and become sustainable. Tomorrow's world will be the mirror of today's wisdom. »

Founding member and associate of Horus Network Ltd, world's first solar hosting compagny, [Raphael Domjan](#) is the Initiator, president and chief of expedition of the adventure '[PlanetSolar](#)', the first world tour powered by solar energy. Raphael Domjan is the co-founder and president of the foundation '[SolarPlanet](#)' for the promotion of renewable energies and energetic efficiency, and President of the association SolarSwissConnect. As an ongoing project, Raphael Domjan found [SolarStratos](#), the world's first bi-place solar plane for commercial use and the first solar plane to fly in the stratosphere in 2017 (collaboration with CSEM).



Olivier Arni, Town Councillor (in Switzerland)

*« The future is in our hands. »
(UNESCO chart)*

Olivier Arni holds a degree in psychology from the University of Lausanne. As a town councillor of the Town of Neuchâtel since 2009, he is responsible for town planning, economics and the environment. A member of the Legislative Committee of the Republic and Canton of Neuchâtel, he is committed to supporting durable development and the production of renewable energy.

In order to progress in a complex world, he is convinced of the need to collate and diversify a real strength. This translates as innovation and the interrelation of creativity, dialogue and action.



Prof. Armin Aberle (in Singapore)

« Integrating solar photovoltaic technologies into buildings is an important emerging market in many regions of the world, including Singapore and Asia Pacific. In these applications, aesthetics and colour play important roles. SERIS has been collaborating with EPFL and CSEM since 2010 in the area of silicon solar cells, and this latest CSEM innovation will expand that collaboration to PV modules and PV systems, including building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV). »

Prof Armin ABERLE is the CEO of the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and a tenured full professor in the university's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He holds BSc/MSc, PhD and Dr habil degrees in physics from German universities. His research focus is on photovoltaic materials, devices and modules. He has (co)authored more than 300 papers and his work has significant impact (> 5,000 citations). He has been supervising more than 60 PhD students in his career.