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Ritek inks second strategic alliance with Scheuten to make CIGS thin-film solar modules

Jimmy Hsu, Taipei; Adam Hwang, DIGITIMES [Wednesday 15 October 2008]

Ritek has announced a strategic alliance with Netherlands-based Scheuten Solar Holding BV to set up a joint venture to make CIGS (copper-indium-gallium-selenide) thin-film solar modules in Taiwan. The first production line under the venture is scheduled to come into operation at the end of 2008 with an annual capacity of 30MWp.

This is the second strategic alliance between the two companies. In August 2008 Ritek began to make crystalline silicon solar modules for marketing through Scheuten.

The joint venture will be initially capitalized at NT\$600 million (US\$18.6 million), with Ritek and Scheuten each holding a 50% stake, according to Ritek CEO Gordon Yeh. The first production line will be installed at a factory belonging to RiTdisplay, Ritek's OLED subsidiary, in northern Taiwan, Yeh indicated. Total annual production capacity is planned to be gradually increased to 120MWp in 2010, Yeh pointed out.

While Scheuten has engaged in the solar cell business for more than 10 years with manufacturing experience and a large client base, Ritek and RiTdisplay have thin-film coating expertise from their history in producing optical discs and OLEDs, Yeh indicated. Thus, the strategic alliance combines complementary resources from both sides, Yeh pointed out.

Although amorphous silicon (a-Si) and CdTe are two main types of thin-film solar cells currently in production, Ritek chose CIGS because the cells have considerably higher energy conversion rates and are non-toxic, Yeh explained.

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