

# European Becquerel Prize for Outstanding Merits in Photovoltaics

To mark the 150th anniversary of Alexandre-Edmond Becquerel's discovery of the photovoltaic effect in 1839, the European Commission founded in 1989 the European Becquerel Prize for outstanding contributions to the development of Photovoltaic Solar Energy. It is awarded for the twelfth time in 2005 on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference in Barcelona. The Prize winner was selected by the prominent members of the World Photovoltaic community and confirmed by the Becquerel Prize Committee.

## **Prof. Dr. Joachim Luther**

*Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy, Freiburg, Germany*

is the 2005 Becquerel Prize winner. Prof. Dr. Joachim Luther receives this year's Becquerel Prize for his outstanding contributions in the field of photovoltaics through successful leadership of the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy, in selecting and organizing R&D on the most promising topics in silicon, III-V solar cells, concentrators, thermophotovoltaics and organic solar cells. He has outlined the important role of renewables in a future energy system. Prof. Dr. Luther has been in leading positions in major national and international solar associations and served in high level government advisory councils. He earned great merits for the promotion of collaboration between European PV industries and research institutions.

With this Prize, the Commission expresses its recognition to Prof. Dr. Luther for these achievements.

*Signature*

*Janez Potočnik*

*European Commissioner for Science and Research*