

# Alexandre-Edmond Becquerel Prize

To mark the 150th anniversary of Becquerel's classical experiment which laid the foundation of both photovoltaics and photography, the European Commission established in 1989 an Alexandre-Edmond Becquerel Prize for outstanding contributions to the development of Photovoltaic Solar Energy. It is awarded for the sixth time in 1997 on the occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference in Barcelona (Catalunya), Spain. Prominent members of the Scientific Committee of this Conference and of other photovoltaic conferences in the USA and Japan have elected the Prize winner.

Alexandre-Edmond Becquerel, a Frenchman who lived from 1820 to 1891, was the son of Antoine-César and the father of Henri, three generations of famous scientists. Alexandre-Edmond's interests ranged widely over physics and chemistry; he was an outstanding experimentalist and contributed to the conceptual developments of the day. He detected the photovoltaic effect in 1839.

## Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Adolf Goetzberger

is the 1997 Prize winner. The Becquerel Prize is awarded to Prof. Goetzberger in recognition of his numerous contributions to the science and technology of photovoltaic energy conversion and of his major achievements in luminescent and non-imaging concentrators. Early fundamental work on the development of semiconductor devices established him as an international authority on this field. His reputation was further enhanced by his founding of the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems which, together with his colleagues, he developed into a world class centre for the utilisation of solar energy.

For the European Commission

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Prof. Jorma Routti