

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 thirty-third time in 2025 on the occasion of the 42nd European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition in Bilbao. After a public nomination phase, the Prize winner was selected by the Becquerel Prize Committee.



is the thirty-third Becquerel Prize winner. She receives this prestigious award for her significant role as one of the foremost ambassadors for solar energy in Europe.

Walburga Hemetsberger is widely recognized for her tireless efforts in integrating photovoltaics into Europe's broader energy transition and climate change strategies. Under her leadership as CEO, SolarPower Europe has successfully advocated for the deployment of solar energy across Europe, including the adoption of the Solar Energy Strategy by the European Commission and the EU Solar Standard. With remarkable energy and enthusiasm, Ms. Hemetsberger has played a pivotal role in shaping EU solar policy during a critical period for the PV industry. Her influence on innovation and research initiatives, such as the Partnership for Photovoltaics, further underscores her commitment to the advancement of photovoltaics. She is also a strong advocate of the "Women in PV" initiative, which aims to empower women in the solar industry and increase their visibility. Through her strong and convincing engagement, she has become an effective leader promoting solar energy.

Dr. Christian Thiel

European Commission Joint Research Centre
Head of Unit Energy Efficiency and Renewables

Prof. Stefan Glunz

Chairman of the
Becquerel Prize Committee