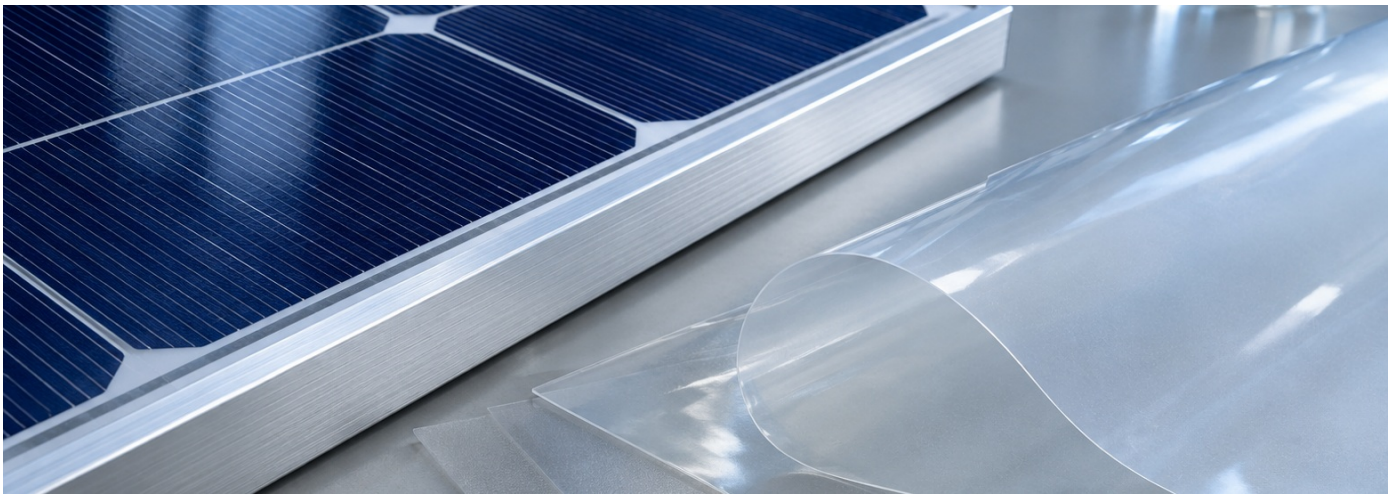
Polymers & PV 2027

Lessons from the Past - Designing the Future

17-18 March 2027 | Leoben, Austria



What can yesterday's PV modules teach us about tomorrow's technologies?

Now in its fifth edition, the Backsheet & Encapsulant Workshop series comes to Leoben for the first time. Initiated by HI ERN in Erlangen in 2022, the workshop connects polymer science with practical challenges in photovoltaics.

Across two days, researchers, material suppliers, module manufacturers and PV industry experts will link decades of field experience with new approaches to module design, reliability and circularity.

Four themes for the discussion

Lessons from ageing and failures of PV modules

Field degradation, failure mechanisms and lessons for emerging cell and module concepts.

Designing tomorrow's PV modules

Encapsulation, lamination and repair: balancing reliability, manufacturability and recyclability.

Non-destructive material analysis

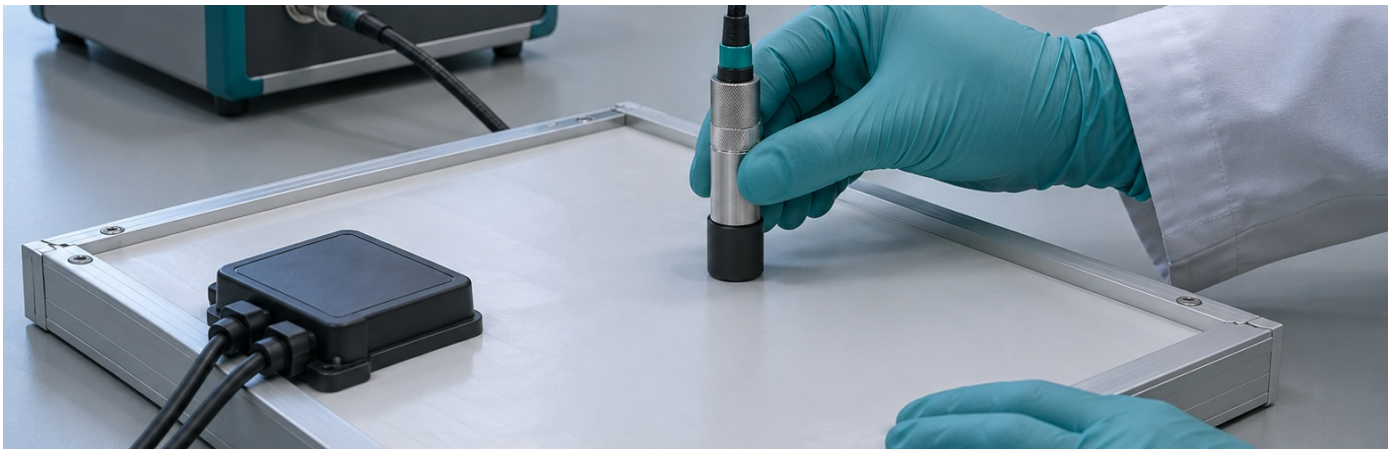
Spectroscopy, imaging and automation for inspection, quality assurance and second-life decisions.

Polymers for integrated PV

Materials for buildings and infrastructure, with fire safety, durability, repair and recycling in focus.

More than presentations

Technical insights. Practical demonstrations. Open discussion.



Learn from real modules

Explore an exhibition of aged PV modules and take on the challenge of estimating their performance losses.

Watch material analysis live

Discover non-destructive inspection through demonstrations of near-infrared spectroscopy and UV fluorescence imaging.

Join the roundtables

Discuss contested questions about future module design, reliability and circularity with researchers and industry experts.

Connect across the PV value chain

Exchange ideas, compare experience and explore opportunities for new collaborations.

Organising committee

Gernot Oreski & Chiara Barretta

Polymer Competence Center Leoben (PCCL)

Gabriele Eder & Anika Gassner

Österreichische Forschungsinstitut für Chemie und Technik (OFI)

Claudia Buerhop Lutz & Marius Peters

Helmholtz Institute Erlangen-Nürnberg for Renewable Energy (HI ERN)

Programme updates & registration

Visit the workshop website

TECHNOLOGIE PLATTFORM PHOTOVOLTAIK

Supported by the Austrian Technology Platform Photovoltaics (TPPV)

Full Programme to be confirmed soon