solar

MDPI

Editorial

Solar—A New Open Access Journal for Solar Technologies

Juergen H. Werner

Institute for Photovoltaics and Research Center SCoPE, University of Stuttgart, 70569 Stuttgart, Germany; juergen.werner@ipv.uni-stuttgart.de

Climate change and the consequential environmental catastrophes are real, not only in less developed countries of the so-called "Global South" but also in so-called industrialized and "well-developed" areas of the world! Just within the last few months and years, we have seen high-temperature records in the United States, fire disasters in Canada, Australia, Greece, Italy, and Spain. We have also been confronted with deadly flood disasters in China, Japan, Germany, Austria, England and so on and on. It is foreseeable that the situation will become worse over the next decades. Nevertheless, even in those seemingly enlightened societies there are still politicians and other people with limited information and insight doubting human-made climate change.

Despite and because of this fast car, steering towards the abyss, if at all, there is only one way out: We must not only perform basic research and lead academic discussions, but we must use, as fast as possible, the only real sustainable energy source that enables us to come to a CO_2-free energy supply: the Sun. Additionally, also in research, we must make contributions which convince politicians and other decision makers to turn the steering wheel in a different direction. Purely academic ivory tower discussions, limited to basic research far away from any real application, will not help much.

The new journal *Solar* [1] warmly invites you to send us high-quality reports on your newest research, development, and application of solar technologies. The emphasis will be on the *direct* use of solar energy in photovoltaics (PV) and solar thermal conversion. Articles which convincingly show a relevance to applications are particularly welcome. *Indirect* use of solar energy, such as waterpower or wind energy is not in the focus of attention of *Solar*.

Therefore, in the field of *photovoltaics*, we encourage authors to submit articles on new promising materials for photovoltaics, high-efficiency solar cells, modules and systems, novel characterization methods, new instruments for industrialization, PV heating and cooling systems, building integration, power electronics for PV, battery systems and other storage systems combined with PV, small area and large area power plants, as well as on PV-driven grids and grid integration

In the field of *solar thermal conversion*, we ask for articles on materials research, novel flat panel collectors, concentrating systems, solar heating/cooling, combined solar thermal/PV-systems, storage systems, and also on small or large area solar power plants.

Speeding up the application of PV and solar thermal technologies needs more than the discussion of research- and technology-related issues! Particularly in the discussion with decision makers, articles are necessary which cover the politics, economy, and social aspects of solar technologies as well as those related to environmental issues (e.g., recycling, replacement of toxic materials, carbon footprint), energy and yield forecasts, life cycle analyses, and degradation measurements.

We warmly invite you to submit your manuscript related to the scope of *Solar*.

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

Citation: Werner, J.H. *Solar*—A New Open Access Journal for Solar Technologies. *Solar* **2021**, *1*, 2–3. https://doi.org/10.3390/solar1010002

Received: 29 July 2021
Accepted: 30 July 2021
Published: 3 August 2021

Reference

1. *Solar* Home Page. Available online: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/solar (accessed on 29 July 2021).

Short Biography of Author

Jürgen H. Werner
Academic title: Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Dr. rer. nat. habil.
1980: Diploma Degree in Physics, University of Tübingen
1983: PhD at Max-Planck-Institute for Solid State Research, Stuttgart
1983–1985: Postdoc at Max-Planck-Institut for Solid State Research, Stuttgart
1985–1987: Postdoc at IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY, and at AT&T Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ, USA
1991: Habilitation at Technical University of Munic
1987–1996: Permanent member of staff at Max-Planck-Institute for Solid State Research, Stuttgart
1996–2020: Full professor and director of Institute for Photovoltaics (until 2011: Institute for Physical Electronics), University of Stuttgart
2008–2018: Guest professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan
2016–2018: Guest professor at Tokyo City University, Tokyo, Japan
Research fields: semiconductor interfaces; photovoltaics; renewable energies