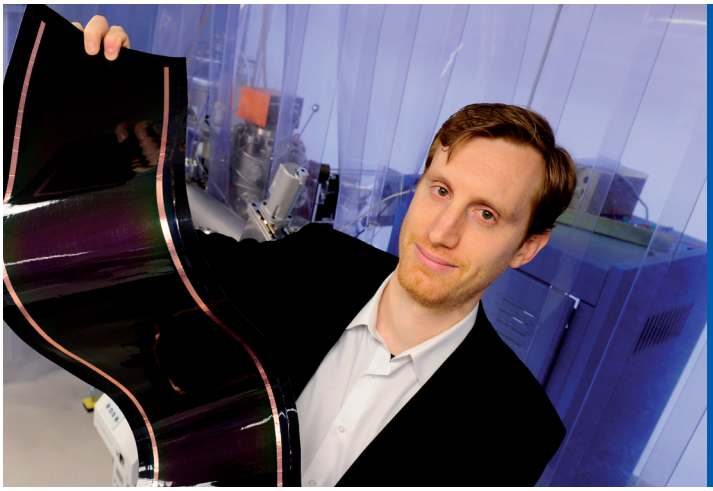
EURESEARCH
your Swiss guide to European research



# Success Stories

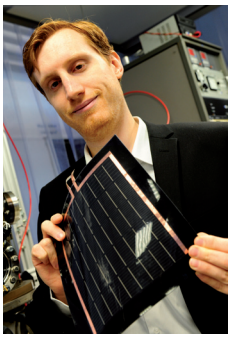
SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Researchers' Success Stories / May 2010

## Industry and academia collaborate on innovative product

**In QCOALA, eight companies and three research institutions will work together to develop an innovative laser welding process. The advantage of such a collaboration: researchers know for sure what the industry needs and the industry can test and use new technology before competitors do.**

QCOALA is one of the first projects which applied for funding under the "Factories of the Future" initiative, one of three Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs) projects of the European Commission.



If all goes according to the plan, QCOALA should be ready to start this summer. The companies involved in this project have already copiled "wish lists" regarding an innovative laser welding process. Their research partners will cover this wish list over the next three years.

One of the companies involved in QCOALA is FLISOM AG, a spin-off company of ETH Zurich.

**Gain a competitive advantage**

David Brémaud, co-founder of FLISOM, sees QCOALA as a chance to gain a technological and therefore competitive advantage. "With this project we have the opportunity to make progress that we might not make otherwise – or not so quickly. And we can test new technology and use it before the finished product is on the market." Furthermore, the project enables FLISOM to develop relationships to other companies and researchers; relationships which might result in fruitful collaborations.

**"We can test new technology and use it before the finished product is on the market."**

### FACTS AND FIGURES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Project Name:** | QCOALA<br>Quality Control of Aluminium Laser Welded Assemblies |
| **Research Area:** | Factories of the Future |
| **Organisation/Coordinator:** | TWI Ltd |
| **SME-Partner:** | Flisom AG |
| **Contact SME-Partner:** | David Brémaud |
| **Start Date - End Date** | Summer 2010 - Summer 2013 |
| **Duration** | 36 months |
| **Project Cost:** | 4.10 million Euro |
| **Project Funding:** | 2.74 million Euro |
| **Contract type:** | FP7, Public Private Partnership |

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

QCOALA (Quality Control of Aluminium Laser Welded Assemblies) consists of eight companies and three research institutions. They will develop an innovative process for laser welding and the adequate machines. The process and machines will have to meet the specific needs of the partner companies involved.
One of the partners, FLISOM (www.flisom.ch), produces a flexible and extremely lightweight solar cell device which converts light into electricity with world-record efficiency. The company expects from the new laser welding a higher durability, conductibility and flexibility of the electric contacts on the solar cell.

When asked about the disadvantages of participating in such a project, David Brémaud points out the administrative effort, which would be much smaller if he would just assign a university to do the research he wants. However, the advantages seem to prevail.

**Finding partners for the second call**

Apart from "Factories of the Future", the European Commission funds two other initiatives under FP7 which aim to enable such public-private-partnerships: "Energy-efficient Buildings" and "Green Cars". The European Commission will issue a second call for projects in these three areas in July 2010.
In the case of FLISOM, getting involved in "Factories of the Future" was not so difficult: they were contacted by TWI Ltd, the coordinator of the project, and asked to join in. Those who find it harder to find partners get support from Euresearch.

# Euresearch – Your Swiss Guide to European Research and Innovation

Euresearch informs and advises about the participation in European Research and Development Programmes & facilitates Innovation partnerships in Europe.

We guide you in finding opportunities fitting your needs.
We answer all your questions related to FP7, COST and EEN.
We also help you with the preparation of your project.

## Funding European Research Projects

### FP7 – the 7th Framework Programme for R&D of the EU*

FP7 is the main instrument for scientific and technological cooperation in Europe funding basic and market oriented research, applied development and fellowships.
*www.euresearch.ch/fp7*

## Funding European Scientific Cooperation

### COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology*

European scientists can get support to cooperate on a particular project and exchange expertise with financial support for joint activities such as conferences, short-term scientific exchanges and publications. Research itself is not funded.
*www.sbf.admin.ch/htm/themen/international*

## Building European Innovation and Business Cooperation

### EEN – Enterprise Europe Network**

Find appropriate cooperation partners in Europe with the support of the Enterprise Europe Network (600 partner organisations in more than 40 countries) facilitating company-company and company-academia innovation partnerships in Europe and beyond.
In Switzerland Euresearch offers personal brokerage support services to find technology partners, new innovation opportunities and to access new markets.
*www.swisseen.ch/innovation*

* Euresearch is mandated by the State Secretariat for Education and Research
** Euresearch is mandated by the Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology.

EURESEARCH
*your Swiss guide to European research*

Euresearch Head Office Effingerstrasse 19 3008 Berne
Phone +41 31 380 60 25 *www.euresearch.ch*