

9 Profiles of early PV companies and organisations

9.1 Inclusions and omissions

The following directory gives profiles of key organisations active in terrestrial photovoltaics during the early PV era. To make it easier to search, entries are grouped in the following categories:

- 9.2 PV manufacturing and research companies
- 9.3 Other companies
- 9.4 Universities and research centres
- 9.5 International, national and representative

I have tried to be objective and consistent in the criteria for including organisations in this chapter. Research organisations and companies are included only if their innovations progressed to significant commercial exploitation during our timeframe. I have excluded larger companies who dabbled in solar energy if their PV activities never emerged as a substantial business stream.

Because solar cells and modules were such a dominant component of PV systems in the early PV era, this chapter gives relatively comprehensive coverage to PV manufacturers in chapter 9.2. Downstream companies in distribution and systems engineering were equally important to the success of the sector; chapter 9.3 is more selective in including only the most prominent. It also lists selected companies higher up the value chain, such as equipment suppliers.

Finally, the list deals primarily with organisations active for a substantial proportion of our timeframe. Later entrants, and organisations, which only became prominent after the end of the last century, are generally excluded.

A selection of those who missed out on inclusion because of these criteria is shown in chapter 9.6 below. Readers may choose to peruse the full index at the end of the book for a fuller reference of people and organisations active in and around the early terrestrial photovoltaics industry.

9.2 PV manufacturing and research companies

This chapter profiles companies whose primary involvement in the PV sector was in researching and producing solar cells and modules. Companies in the sector, whose main activities were not in the device research and manufacture are profiled in the next chapter 9.3.

Remember: these lists contain just a selection of relevant organisations; cover only the years 1973-1999 ('latterly' or 'subsequently' for later events); and superscripted 'qv' relates to other people, organisations, events or awards profiled in this Part II. Refer to Chapter 9.6 for some obvious omissions.