

10.1 Inclusions and omissions

Too many books, in this sector and others, give the impression that inventions, companies or events are the brainchild of just one individual. In practice this is rarely, if ever, the case. The most successful organisations are built on groups of good people. All the pioneers I interviewed acknowledged the contributions of the teams around them. The following Who's Who is therefore inevitably an incomplete record of key people active in the early PV sector.

I have tried to be objective and consistent in the same way as the list of organisations in the previous chapter, and have consulted others. It's impossible to escape all subjectivity; my background, makes it likely that industrialists may be over-represented compared to researchers, politicians, consultants and public servants; and any omissions and errors are entirely mine. Because some people are more extrovert than others, there are probably cases where individual visibility has trumped actual achievement. The criteria I have sought to adopt are as follows:

For most of the people listed, terrestrial solar photovoltaics was the primary focus of their work. Individuals for whom PV was only a small part of their career are included only in very exceptional circumstances. The list shows people who were active for a significant proportion of our timeframe. People whose main contribution to the PV sector came after the end of the 20th century are therefore not shown.

Organisations are made up of people, all making some contribution to the overall outcome. The following list has adopted the "buck stops here" approach, and singles out the founders, leaders and principal board members of relevant PV organisations or departments.

All in all this selection policy means that many significant contributors are not individually listed below, because they were in middle management, made their main contribution later, or were simply less visible. Some are recognised in chapter 10.3 below, while the full index in Part III Chapter F gives a more comprehensive list of those who contributed to the early development of terrestrial photovoltaics.

The almost complete omission of women is, believe me, not a matter of editorial selection policy; merely a sad reflection of the gender gap prevalent at senior levels of the technology sector at the time.

10.2 Profiles of selected terrestrial PV pioneers

Remember: this list contains just a selection of the key PV pioneers (see also Chapter 10.3); it relates to terrestrial PV in the period from 1973-1999 ('latterly' or 'subsequently' for later activity); and superscripted 'qv' relates to other people, organisations, events or awards profiled in this book.

Where possible photographs date back to, or close to, this timeframe, and I have used any academic titles applicable in that era.