



[About us](#)

[Research](#)

[Education](#)



FME SOLAR Newsletter

Welcome to the first Newsletter from the Norwegian PV research centre, FME SOLAR! Here, you will find news from the centre and updates on important events. You will also get a chance to become more familiar with the people and partners making up the centre. The information will also be made available on our newly launched website, fmesolar.no.

[Go to our website](#)

From the centre director

It has taken some time for us to get here, but we are finally in full operation! To the PV community, which is used to a wholly different pace, the lengthy strategic processes required for the development of a long-term research centre can seem somewhat alien. I am therefore extremely grateful for the support and tremendous patience so far. Finally, the real work has begun. Finally, FME SOLAR will start to have some impact.

A main goal of FME SOLAR is to support innovation targeting value creation in the increasingly vast, global PV industry. We do not have the final numbers in yet, but it is clear that 2024 was a record year globally for PV installations. The growth remains nearly exponential, and more investments are now going into PV power plants than into all power plants based on all other technologies combined, according to the IEA. This creates a huge opportunity space where contributing to the green transition can be combined with substantial value creation. This is very good news for us and our partners.

A second main goal of FME SOLAR is to contribute to making PV an increasingly important source of power in Norway. Here, the situation is currently more challenging. With a marked drop in domestic installation rates in 2024 and with high interest rates, an unfavourable currency and policy schemes removing important incentives for investing in PV, we have a lot of work to do to get PV back on track. This is, fortunately, what we are set up to do!

Finally, training tomorrow's experts to grow and eventually take over and lead the PV community into a greener future is an important motivation behind the establishment of FME SOLAR. I am therefore also extremely happy that we now have the first students in place. There are many more to come!

In this newsletter, you will meet the first master students trained within FME SOLAR. You will also learn more about the first scheduled webinars this year. Finally, you will find information related to our most important venue this year: the Norwegian Solar Cell Conference. I hope to see you there!

Webinars



FME SOLAR will host a series of webinars. At these events, we will present and thereafter discuss some of the main results from the work in FME SOLAR. The webinars take place at lunchtime on select Tuesdays. Below you can find information and links to sign up for the first three webinars, which will take place in March. If you are unable to join a webinar, recordings will be made available to all FME SOLAR partners on the FME SOLAR Teams site.

FME SOLAR in a nutshell

March 4th, 2025, 12:15 - 13:00

We will begin our webinar series with an overview of what to expect from our centre. Our Centre Director, Erik Stensrud Marstein, will give an in-depth presentation of FME SOLAR and its role in the domestic and global development in PV.

Sign up here

Short-term forecasting

March 11th, 2025, 12:15 - 14:00

The FME SOLAR research partners have extensive experience related to forecasting of PV production. In this webinar, you will be updated on the different methods for short-term production forecasting that centre colleagues from IFE, SINTEF and UiO are developing. These methods will be a basis for further research in FME SOLAR.

Sign up here

Master student presentations

March 25th, 2025, 12:15 -13:00

In this webinar, you will learn more about our master students, who will present their projects and their findings in their thesis work so far. You will also hear from the Work Package Manager of WP7 – Education and Training, Professor Turid Reenaas from NTNU, who will give an introduction to the activities in the Education work package this year. You will find more information about all students affiliated with FME SOLAR on our [website](#).

Sign up here

The Norwegian Solar Cell Conference (NSCC) 2025

We are happy to invite you to the Norwegian Solar Cell Conference, which for the first time is arranged by FME SOLAR. This important event will take place on May 20th and 21st at Son Spa by the beautiful Oslofjord.



Registration

The Early Bird registration is now open. Make sure to register before **March 1st** for discounted rates. This year we also have a few spots available for master students at heavily discounted rates. If you are interested in one of these: make sure to sign up quickly and at the latest on **March 15th**.

Program

We have received a large number of abstracts and look very much forward to a busy and exciting conference! The final touches are being made to the program, which will soon appear [here](#).

[Sign up here](#)

Have you published a paper? Do you have new, exciting results from your work? Are you advertising (summer) jobs?

We would like to hear from you! We want to make both this newsletter and the FME SOLAR website as active and relevant as possible. Therefore, news from our partners and colleagues are most welcome!

If you have anything to report, please send an e-mail to kristin.bergum@ife.no with more information.

Photo credits:

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Mari Benedikte Øgaard, IFE/UiA

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