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Increase the competitiveness of the EU PV manufacturing industry

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High-performance low-cost modules with excellent environmental profiles for a competitive EU PV manufacturing industry



HighLite- Deliverable report

D5.1- Selection of sub-contractor for VIPV integration.

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About HighLite

The HighLite project aims to substantially improve the competitiveness of the EU PV manufacturing industry by developing knowledge-based manufacturing solutions for high-performance low-cost modules with excellent environmental profiles (low CO₂ footprint, enhanced durability, improved recyclability). In HighLite, a unique consortium of experienced industrial actors and leading institutes will work collectively to develop, optimize, and bring to high technology readiness levels (TRL 6-7) innovative solutions at both cell and module levels.

HighLite consortium members



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Publishable summary

Within the HighLite Project Task 5.2 different types of photovoltaic modules will be developed for the integration in passenger vehicles. The target of this task is therefore to achieve lightweight 3D curved VIPV modules with improved efficiency, uniform appearance and which additionally pass a vibration test whilst adhering to the IEC (61215 & 61730) norms.

To effectively integrate a photovoltaic module into a body panel of a passenger car, the HighLite consortium relies on the expertise of a third party which was to be subcontracted for this project. To find a suitable subcontractor an open tender was published on the 20th April 2020 via the official website for the award of public contracts in Germany “eVergabe¹” with the name “Consultation and integration of 3D curved lightweight photovoltaic modules for vehicle integration”.

The task description of the tender was divided into three work-packages: WP1 Legal safety requirements on photovoltaic integration of vehicle body panels, WP2 Consultation and provision of information on the body panel properties and requirements for technology integration, and WP3 Provision of an electric vehicle and supply of body panels.

The selection of the subcontractor was carried out within the allocated time of the first year of the project. Flanders Make was selected as a subcontractor to support the HighLite project and the involved project partners for the development and testing of VIPV modules.

Flanders Make is the strategic research centre for the manufacturing industry contributing to the technological development of the vehicles, machines and factories of the future and offering an extensive range of testing and validation infrastructure for products or production. With Flanders Make as the subcontractor the HighLite and VIPV consortium are gaining an experienced company for car body panels testing and the associated norms and requirements. The training provided by Flanders Make to the consortium on “legal safety requirements on photovoltaic integration in vehicle body panels” will allow for VIPV modules to be designed according to the PV industry norms as well as according to the vehicle industry norms on body panels. The provision of car body panels and the relevant information will allow for the VIPV module design to be suitable for integration of the electric vehicle which Flanders Make will make available for dissemination purposes.

Additionally, Flanders Make’s industry-relevant testing facilities will be used for the testing and monitoring of photovoltaic integrated car body panels produced in HighLite. The indoor simulated test based on real driving and environmental conditions will allow for a good comparison between the different technologies developed by the VIPV consortium.

Flanders Make are therefore a good fit to fulfil the tasks described in the tender and to advise on the development of photovoltaic integrated body panels for passenger vehicles relevant to the car industry.

¹ https://www.deutsche-evergabe.de/Dashboards/Dashboard_off