Press release
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An innovative process paves the way for a new generation of photovoltaic panel assembly processes

Assembly equipment LIT™ RAPID SOLAR, developed in partnership with Roctool
Photo credit: CEA Laurence GODARD

Roctool (Euronext Growth – FR0010523167 – ALROC), specialist in mold heating and cooling technologies for plastics and composites, that it has strengthened its partnership with CEA-Liten.
CEA-Liten develops lightweight composite photovoltaic panels for various applications, including solar mobility. Their laboratories, on the INES site, have equipped themselves with a thermocompression press featuring an induction heating system. **This equipment, LIT™ RAPID SOLAR, developed in partnership with Roctool, offers new and promising features.**

Temperature and pressure conditions that open up new possibilities for photovoltaic module materials. The LIT™ RAPID SOLAR makes it possible to work at much higher temperatures than the lamination equipment normally used for assembling photovoltaic panels. It also ensures cooling in the same chamber, without breaking the applied pressure. These temperature and pressure conditions enable the use of new thermoplastic polymer materials and polymer-matrix composites for the encapsulation step in the module assembly. These materials offer exciting new opportunities and could in particular facilitate the recycling of PV modules, a major issue in this field.

Access to complex 3D formats. The tooling is interchangeable according to the needs of the application: it can be used to achieve flat formats, as well as curved or complex 3D shapes.

The features of LIT™ RAPID SOLAR make the difference in photovoltaic panels compared to the standard lamination process:

- Process temperature up to 260°C, compared with 180°C
- Applied pressure > 6 bar, compared with 1 bar.

Pre-qualification of this new process in a photovoltaic module assembly environment. Two photovoltaic panels, one made using a standard process, and the other using the LIT™ Rapid Solar process, passed 100 thermal cycles (-40°C to +85°C) and were tested under high humidity conditions (85°C and 85% relative humidity). Tests have shown that the two modules have equivalent performance, enabling this new process to be pre-qualified in a photovoltaic panel assembly environment!

Next publication: annual results in April 2025

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About Roctool:
Roctool specializes in rapid heating and cooling technologies for plastic injection and composite molding. The processes developed by Roctool are in production in the following industries: automotive, electronics, consumer goods, renewable energy, luxury and beauty packaging, and medical. Roctool is an induction molding technology for plastic, composites, and recycled materials. Roctool offers engineering services, induction generators, tooling equipment, and on-site support to manufacturers worldwide. Roctool technologies are renowned for eliminating secondary operations, allowing manufacturers to reduce the overall cost of parts produced, as well as their environmental impact. The head office is in Le Bourget-du-Lac (France). Roctool is present in the United States, China, Japan, and Germany. More information on: www.roctool.com