

# Solsol joins REC ScanCell

Since this summer REC ScanCell has three consultants from Germany that has joined our Performance management team. Here Julian Mattheis tells us where they come from and what their work is at our company and how they like it in Narvik.

Solsol is a small consultancy firm founded in 2009 in Stuttgart, Germany, with the goal to support manufacturers of solar cells in the technological development of their products. Currently, both co-founders Hannes and myself (Julian) as well as our first employee Robert are part of the performance department at REC ScanCell. That means almost the whole Solsol team is up in Narvik. Hannes is head of the department, I am leading the improvement program, and Robert is driving metalization activities. The Solsol's core competence is to combine technological know-how with a drive to get developments into standard production. We have been developing solar cells for ten years. I like to consider solar cells a passion. However, my girlfriend calls it an obsession.

Starting at the University of Stuttgart and then at Q-Cells and Centrotherm we have gained quite some experience with crystalline silicon cells as well as thin film cells, in particular, when it comes to the development of high efficiency cells. At Solsol, we have done projects in Germany, Austria, and India including line optimization as well as ramping up production lines and building facility systems.

Together with the whole performance department, we are responsible for delivering a continuously improving solar cell efficiency at ScanCell. Since June, ScanCell has been quite successful in implementing process improvements and the efficiency has increased by more than 0.7 % abs. For us it is a great opportunity and a lot of fun to be part of the ScanCell team and to continue writing this success story. We are currently working on keeping up the line performance and improving stability while at the same time preparing for the next developments. So there will be quite some exciting times ahead of us.

We immensely enjoy the nature around Narvik. If he had the time, Hannes would spend every day fishing. But



*Robert, Hannes and Julian.*

maybe it is quite good he is so busy because he already dropped his wallet in the fjord, once. One drawback is that the beer is not quite what it is back home, but that's ok, it is too expensive, anyway. In summer we really enjoyed the midnight sun, which is quite an amazing thing when you see it for the first time. Now the snow on the mountains seems to tell us that the summer is over, but at least, it is a little darker again and I can sleep without taping my windows. Unfortunately, though, everybody speaks such good English that our efforts to learn Norwegian are stranded at lesson five: "the numbers below 20". That's barely enough for the upcoming efficiency improvements.

*Julian Mattheis*